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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of the Legislature repealing the Derivative Beneficiaries Act?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Obama Job Plan

In a sharp challenge to the GOP, President Barack Obama proposed paying for his costly new jobs plan Monday with tax hikes.

BUSINESS...Page 13

Wandering Feet

The wayward penguin known as "Happy Feet" is missing in the Southern Ocean.

ASIA...Page 15

Miss Angola Wins

Newly crowned Miss Universe Leila Lopes hopes her victory will allow her to assist her native Angola.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Senate passes budget bill

»Cuts Legislature, Executive funds to give more for NMC, PSS, Rota, Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate passed yesterday a substitute $102-million budget bill that the House could end up rejecting today if they disagree with the changes that include cutting the funds of the Legislature and the Executive Branch by over $2 million and moving them to the Public School System, the Northern Marianas College, Rota, Tinian, and other programs.

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Manglona

Some of the changes made by the Senate to the House budget bill

- "Zero out" the House, Senate leadership allocations previously totaling $248,396
- "Zero out" 29 lawmakers' allocation previously totaling $1,495,702
- Cut $168,213 from the Executive Branch's "Total Other Offices – Operations"
- Cut $88,841 from the Office of the Governor's "operations"
- Cut $86,297 from the Office of the Lt. Governor's "operations"
- Cut $500,000 from the Marianas Visitors Authority budget
- Cut $61,162 from the Micronesian Legal Services

▪ ▪ ▪

- Give $2,313,868 more to the Public School System
- Give $1,230,605 more to Northern Marianas College
- Give $41,000 more to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
- Give $10,000 for judgments
- Give $75,000 more for medical referrals
- Give $77,162 for substance abuse prevention
- Give $362,719 more to Tinian
- Give $250,000 more to Rota

Millard's $118M tax debt surpasses other NMI government collectibles

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Business tycoon William H. Millard's $118-million tax debt, which is bigger than the CNMI's budget of $102 million next year, eclipses all other collectibles from many different businesses and individuals totaling $10 million to $15 million.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who oversees government finances, said yesterday that the government's other collectibles in unpaid taxes mostly

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Medicare points out five key areas of concern at CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health needs to address five key areas outlined by a recent five-day resurvey and inspection conducted on the Commonwealth Health Center by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said among the concerns raised by Medicare are the storage of expired medical and pharmaceutical supplies and the failure of some nurses to follow standards and protocols, specifically for instructions on infections disease control as well as the needed repairs on some units and sections.

Compared to previous Medicare reports where it uncovered multiple violations and findings at the hospital, Villagomez is convinced that the hospital has

See MEDICARE on Page 4

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan join service members, their families, employers, and officials for a group photo after Inos signed a proclamation declaring Sept. 12 to 16 "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve" in the CNMI yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

Retirement Fund's actuary consultant quits. PAGE 2
Condition of US-born kids with disabilities at risk. PAGE 3

Local

Retirement Fund's actuary consultant quits

»Terminated contracts with service providers now total 4

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A day after its investment consultant terminated its contract with the NMI Retirement Fund, yesterday was Buck Consultants' turn to sever its relationship with the government pension program.

And like Wilshire Associates, the actuary adviser also said the reason why it's terminating its services with the Fund is because of the recently signed Beneficiaries Derivatives Act, or Public Law 17-51.

The Fund received Buck Consultants' resignation letter yesterday and the move now brings to four the total number of resignations by its contractors in the aftermath of the law's signing.

Buck Consultants' resignation may also not be the last, as Fund officials admitted that some service providers may follow suit because of disagreement with P.L. 17-51.

"We have reviewed P.L. 17-51 and have concluded that it makes a significant change to the working relationship between Buck Consultants and the NMI Retirement Fund. The law is out of step with our industry, as other Fund service providers have observed," Buck Consultants indicated in its letter to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that Buck Consultants' parent organization—Affiliated Computer Services and Xerox Corporation—has reviewed the law and was concerned that lawsuits could arise under the law which would require large unpredictable amounts of time and expense to defend. Accordingly, Buck Consultants intends to cease providing actuarial services to the Fund until the law is changed or repealed.

According to Villagomez, "actuaries are a very conservative bunch" and their role is to audit the health of the pension fund. He said the law was viewed by the consultant as a material adverse event like war and terrorism.

"As it stands right now, Wilshire Associates, the Fund's investment consultant; Buck Consultants, the Fund's actuary; and at least two money managers have terminated their contracts with the Fund.

This makes the Fund unable to manage its assets in order to provide benefits to beneficiaries," the Fund's statement read yesterday.

Buck Consultants has been doing business with the Fund for several years and just last May, its principal and consulting actuary, Dylan Porter, presented to the Fund and the Legislature "snapshots" that can help save the Commonwealth's beleaguered pension program.

These snapshots centered on the proposed cuts of benefits paid to pension members and the streamlining of the Fund's assets.

Wilshire Associates earlier revealed that based on the present asset value of the plan, which was $271.2 million as of Aug. 16, the program may only last up to three years if no immediate actions are taken to remedy the situation.

A day after the signing of P.L. 17-51, which allows retirees and other Fund beneficiaries to take legal action on behalf of the Fund when trustees who manage them refuse to bring action, Stralem & Company and BlackRock Inc. immediately terminated their contracts citing the bad effects it will bring to their business transaction with the Fund.

Just last Monday, Wilshire Associates also terminated its contract with the Fund citing the same reasons.

House Bill 17-220 ready

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has expressed his dismay on the law's passage and indicated his support to repeal the law right away.

Rep. George N. Camacho (Cov-Saipan) today is expected to introduce House Bill 17-220, which seeks to repeal the derivative lawsuit act of 2011.

A copy of the draft bill, which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, was circulated among retirees who are encouraged to show their support.

"We urge everyone affected by this to attend the session and show their support to repeal this law," added the Fund's statement sent to retirees yesterday.

According to the draft of H.B. 17-220, P.L. 17-51 adversely affects the ability of the Fund to fulfill its statutory mandate and it will expands the liability of risk for any person or entity dealing with the Fund. The bill intends to repeal the law in its entirety.

"Additionally, the Legislature finds that in order to replace these critical service providers, including investment consultants, money managers, actuaries and others, the Fund will be required to pay higher fees to compensate for the increased exposure to potential baseless lawsuits that the service providers will have to factor into their fees, assuming there are service providers willing to assume such risk," the bill stated.

No Senate action on casino bill until special poll is completed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate said yesterday that it will not act on a casino bill until after the holding of a special election to get Saipan voters' view on legalizing casino gambling on island.

During yesterday's session, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) asked his fellow senators to honor the results of the special election.

"Moreover, the Senate will not act on a casino bill until the results of the special election are completed and the sentiment of the public is heard. This after all was the sole intent of SB 17-90 which we passed by a 7-1 vote in our last session," he said.

The Senate rejected last year a House bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan.

Casino proponents in the House initiated introducing a local casino bill which passed the Saipan and Northern Islands and Legislative Delegation. The local bill is now with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is now also waiting for a new House bill on the casino to be passed by both the House and Senate. If the new House bill isn't passed soon enough, then Fitial may just have to sign the local casino bill, said pro-casino House members.

But Torres asked his colleagues to let the voices of Saipan voters be heard first before acting on a House casino bill, which has yet to be introduced.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said priority these days should go to the passage of a fiscal year 2012 budget bill.

He said the Tinian delegation is requesting to refrain from taking any action regarding the Saipan casino bill until the FY 2012 budget is passed.

Torres, at the same time, said while Northern Marianas College students under the current issues class of Sam McPhetres agreed to conduct a special election on the casino issue, such poll will be held with the guidance and support of the Commonwealth Election Commission.

The special election could be held in November.

The Board of Election and the Office of the Public Auditor are to be observers during the special election "and there shall be no cost to the CNMI government."

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DUE TO IMPACT OF WORKER REGS

'Condition of US-born kids with disabilities at risk'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Jobless nonresident workers who have children with disabilities are seeking the help of both the local and federal governments to allow them to stay, or at the very least, extend their time in the CNMI—for the sake of their children.

Jane Curioso, a mother to a 12-year-old child with autism, is worried that her child's condition may worsen or may be put at risk if services for her child's special needs is stopped.

Curioso, who has been in the CNMI for the past 18 years, lost her job last January and her efforts to find a new one have so far failed

Under the newly released workers regulation issued by the Department of Homeland Security, nonresident workers who are unemployed could face deportation.

Curioso is also the president of the Parents of Children with Disabilities Coalition on Saipan and said that her concern is shared by the 63-member group.

She said members represent 67 children with disabilities—ranging in age from 2 to 14 years olds—enrolled at federally funded special education programs of the Public School System.

Curioso said more than half of the coalition's members are unemployed while the rest are expecting non-renewal of their employment contracts.

"We're fearing for the well-being of our U.S. citizen children who happen to have special needs. Once I bring my child home [to the Philippines], I know I cannot afford to provide all the special services he needs…and I don't want to sacrifice the well-being of my kid. I hope they will help us stay here because they need our guidance and care," said Curioso.

She added that currently her child is regularly receiving free speech therapy, occupational therapy, and hydro therapy from PSS.

Maria Violeta Gaudiano, a mother of a 7-year-old child diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and hearing impairment and mental delay, said yesterday that she's concerned about the future of her only child.

Because of her child's condition and being a single parent, Gaudiano has failed to land a job since 1986. She said she will not leave her child alone on the island, but expressed deep concern on the special needs of her child.

"I know I don't have capability to provide all my child's special needs…but I will not leave my child alone here," she said, adding that PSS and Medicaid is providing free therapy and consultation with specialists for her child's conditions.

Nida Espectacion, a mother of a 12-year-old child with ADHD, also expressed the same concern. She lost her job in April this year and has been in the CNMI for 15 years.

Yesterday, she pleaded to local and federal governments to extend help to nonresident parents of affected children.

For Tess Pascual, she has one wish for her only child—that she continues to receive services for her condition. The 7-year-old was detected with ADHD and seizure disorder.

Pascual has been in the CNMI for 17 years and has four U.S. citizen children, one of whom is a child with special needs. She lost her job in 2008 and was not lucky enough to find another one.

Curioso believes that a greater number of schoolchildren enrolled in special education programs may be affected once DHS decides to deport unemployed nonresident workers.

She said she wrote to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan two months ago but has yet to get a response. Sablan's office, when asked yesterday, has also yet to issue a response to the *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Suzanne Lizama, PSS special education director, the system has no concrete record of who among its enrollees have nonresident parents as the program does not ask for one.

She pointed out that the situation of the parents' group is beyond the PSS special education control. PSS' special education program has over 900 enrollees this school year.

Smooth opening for newly merged schools on Rota

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The opening of classes at Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior and High School went smoothly, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

Sablan, who personally visited Rota last week to witness the first day of classes at the newly merged school, said opening day went well because of a two-day orientation conducted for all students last Sept. 1 and 2 in preparation for their transfer to the new campus last Sept. 6.

"Students arrived on schedule, they knew where to go, they knew where the school cafeteria is, they knew where the classrooms are, and everybody was in class at exactly 8:30am. It went well and this is because of the orientations held before the school opened," said Sablan.

As of Sept. 6, the commissioner said the school recorded 282 enrollees from 7th through 12th grade.

Last Aug. 25 the Board of Education approved the merger of Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior High School and Rota High School to realize savings for the Public School System.

The effort was part of the "budget balancing" of the commissioner, who anticipated a financially tight school year for all public schools.

Sharlene Manglona is the principal of newly merged school, while Annette Calvo serves as vice principal.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh earlier estimated that savings from the merger will reach about $540,000, including savings on utility consumption as a result of the shutting down of some high school buildings. From 35 classroom teachers, the merger also brought down the number of teachers to 22.

Sablan pointed out that although students are now housed at the junior school campus, some facilities in the high school will remain open such as the gymnasium, baseball field, and JROTC building.

Those facilities, Sablan said, will be used for physical education sessions, JROTC classes, special school programs, and is open for community related activities and events.

For many years, the junior high school accommodated sixth to eighth graders, while Rota High School housed 9th to 12th graders.

On top of the merger, PSS also approved the moving out of sixth graders from Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior High School to Sinapalo Elementary School, where Sablan said she also observed a smooth start of classes last week.

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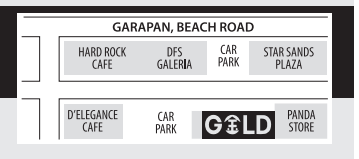

7 charges vs Reksid dismissed, only 1 charge remains for trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Only one charge remains in the case against Department of Public Lands special assistant to the secretary Franz B. Reksid as the seven other charges were dismissed.

On Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Michael A. Ponsor granted defense attorney Mark Hanson's motion to dismiss counts 2 to 6 wire fraud charges against the 70-year-old Reksid.

Ponsor, however, then ruled that the jury trial will proceed as to count one (bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds), and counts 7 and 8 (wire fraud).

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley on Monday moved the court to dismiss without prejudice counts 7 and 8 mail fraud.

O'Malley said a dismissal without prejudice would serve the interests of justice insofar as it would allow appellate resolution of certain issues raised and decided by judge Ponsor pertaining to counts 2 to 6 wire fraud in the indictment.

"Because counts 7 and 8 are similar to, and as the government believes, part of the same scheme was alleged in counts 2 through 6, the government further submits that if the scheme is to be tried, it should be done in a single case," said O'Malley in a motion to dismiss.

At yesterday's hearing, granted O'Malley's motion to dismiss without prejudice counts 7 and 8 mail fraud.

The dismissal leaves only one count remaining to proceed on trial.

Ponsor also affirmed the court's previous decision granting Reksid's motion to exclude evidence of ethics violations.

Ponsor granted O'Malley's motion to stay the jury trial for one week.

The judge ordered the 57 potential jurors to return on Sept. 19 at 8am.

The indictment alleged that from January 2009 to August 2009, Reksid borrowed over $300,000 from friends, associates, and relatives and wired part of the money to Ivory Coast and Nigeria. He also allegedly solicited $3,000 from the owner of a business that was seeking to obtain a contract with DPL.

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Camacho prefiles bill to repeal 1-week old Retirement Fund law

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed a bill that seeks to repeal a Retirement Fund law only a week after it was enacted, although the repeal is likely to face opposition.

Camacho will formally introduce during today's session House Bill 17-220 or the "Repealer of the Beneficiary Derivative Lawsuit Act of 2011."

Only Camacho and four other House members voted "no" on the original Senate bill that Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed on Labor Day when he was acting governor.

The one-week old law would allow beneficiaries of the NMI Retirement Fund to sue on behalf of the pension program if the board refuses to bring such legal action.

Inos separately said yesterday that he doesn't want to be pitted against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who earlier told reporters that he's not happy with the signing of the bill.

"It is law and we'll just have to follow the law. There are remedies, of course," he said.

He said he met with the bill's supporters and opponents before acting on the legislation.

Inos said the law gives retirees the opportunity to "speak up when they feel that they have been harmed in any manner, shape or form."

In signing the bill on Sept. 5, Inos said the measure as passed places sufficient safeguards to address the concerns of the bill's opponents. He had said contrary to the Fund's position, the numbers of litigations and cost of doing business is unlikely to rise as a result of this measure," Inos told the presiding officers of the Legislature.

Camacho said the new law, Public Law 17-51, adversely affects the ability of the Fund to fulfill its statutory mandate.

He said the law expands the liability risk for any person or entity dealing with the Fund "to such an extend that service providers that were under contract prior to the enactment of Public Law 17-51 are terminating their agreements with the Fund." ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

SENATE

From Page 1

Besides the reallocated funds, PSS and NMC also got an additional $1 million from senators who incorporated future collections from the "$150 CNMI education funding fee" under the federalization law.

If the House approves the Senate substitute budget bill today, the measure goes straight to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

But if the House rejects it, the House and Senate will have to form a conference committee that should come up with a budget measure that's acceptable to both houses.

Lawmakers and the governor have only two weeks or until Sept. 30 to pass and sign a budget to prevent a second partial government shutdown in CNMI history.

Any partial government shutdown will result in the temporary unemployment of over 1,000 government employees, most of them already dealing with a 16-hour pay cut biweekly and delayed payrolls since last year.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Senate awaits the House's action, whether to accept or reject the Senate's amendments to the budget bill.

Manglona and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) touted the bill's increased funding for NMC and PSS, as well as for Rota and Tinian's Departments of Public Safety, among other programs.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said there's no telling yet as of yesterday afternoon whether the leadership will accept or reject the budget bill that just came from the Senate.

Cabrera said each House member has to carefully review the amendments that senators made to the spending measure.

"But I'm glad that they passed the bill today and we're now reviewing it," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona and Cabrera have already separately named their respective conferees in case the House rejects the Senate-amended budget bill.

The Senate conferees will include Taimanao, Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Senate Floor Leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), said Manglona.

Cabrera said he's likely to appoint as conferees House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

Unlike in the House where members went into heated arguments before passing a budget bill on Aug. 31, the Senate's substitute bill sailed smoothly during the session.

By a vote of 9-0, the Senate passed the latest version of Basa's 2012 budget bill, which is House Bill 17-215, House Substitute 1, House Draft 5, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1.

'Federalization fee'

Under the Senate-amended budget bill, PSS and NMC got over $1.5 million in additional funding taken from the Legislature, the Executive Branch and other programs.

On top of the reallocated amount, PSS and NMC also got $1 million each.

This additional money will come from the "$150 CNMI education funding fee" that employers will have to pay for every foreign worker hired under U.S. Public Law 110-229.

The substitute bill originally allocated only $1 million for NMC from this education funding fee collection, but Taimanao offered a floor amendment to increase it to $2 million so that PSS will also get additional money.

The Senate ended up giving PSS $30,219,675, which is over $2.3 million more than what the House gave—$27,905,807.

Senators gave NMC a total of $5,249,405, also much more than the $4,018,800 given by the House.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, in an interview after the Senate passed the budget bill, said she's thankful for the Senate's efforts in finding more money to give to PSS at a time when enrollment rose by 4 to 5 percent.

Sablan, during the session, asked senators to give PSS $31 million to $36 million to meet its needs.

PSS ended up getting over $30.219 million, still short of its minimum request of $31 million. But Sablan said it will now be up to PSS to balance its budget.

The House budget allowed PSS to meet its Maintenance-of-Efforts requirements but Sablan said the system is focused on its "needs" to efficiently run the system with over 11,000 students.

NMC president Sharon Hart also asked senators, before passing the budget bill, to give more to NMC to meet its needs.

Zero accounts

True to their word, senators zeroed out both the House and Senate leadership accounts amounting to $248,396, and the 29 lawmakers' allocation of over $1.495 million.

These were instead given to PSS and NMC.

Lawmakers use their allocation for inter-island travel, operate their offices and hire their own employees. Without the allocation, they may have to rely solely on the Legislative Bureau, whose budget remained untouched.

The Senate-amended budget bill decreased the Marianas Visitors Authority's budget by $500,000.

Other cuts

Senators cut the Executive Branch's budget by at least $343,351.

Of this amount, $88,841 was taken from the Office of the Governor's "operations," $86,297 from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor's "operations," and $168,213 from "operations" under the "total other offices" in the Executive Branch.

The Senate reduced the Micronesian Legal Services' budget to $12,000, a $61,162 difference from the House budget.

But the Senate gave an additional $40,000 to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, $10,000 for judgments, and $75,000 more for medical referrals.

Senators also gave $77,162 for substance abuse prevention.

More for Rota, Tinian programs

Senators agreed to increase the funding for the First Senatorial District or Rota, by $250,000.

DPS-Rota will get an additional $100,000; the Mayor of Rota's office will get an additional $80,000; the Rota Municipal Council will get $50,000 more; and Rota's operation and maintenance will get $20,000 more.

The Senate-amended budget bill also gives at least $362,719 more to the Second Senatorial District or Tinian.

DPS-Tinian gets an additional $130,000, while the Mayor of Tinian gets $132,719 more.

The Tinian Municipal Council gets $50,000 more; the Customs Service-Tinian gets an additional $10,000; the Tinian Economic Development gets $20,000 more; and the operation and maintenance-Tinian gets $20,000 mo

MILLARD

From Page 1

"had to do with just the inability to pay, more than contested or litigated claims."

He said collecting all the $118 million from the Millards would not be easy.

Inos also said that the Fitial administration has so far not spent a dime in pursuing the collection case because the New York-based law firm Kobre & Kim is tapped on a contingency basis.

"It's based on success. We haven't spent a dime on this thing that's why we've got nothing to lose," he added.

Millard, once listed as among the richest people in America, sold his interests in Computer-Land Corp. retail chain for over $200 million while he and his family were living on Saipan.

"It's going to take a long time to resolve because like I said, it's not just the individual. We're dealing with jurisdictions that are not immediately within our reach… The individual has amassed a wealth that's spread all over and it's not that easy to bring them all in one location, one place. Again it's a work in progress. This is just the start of a major effort," Inos told reporters after signing a proclamation declaring Sept. 12 to 16 "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week in the CNMI."

For more than 20 years, Millard was one of the world's most elusive tax exiles until New York-based law firm Kobre & Kim—tapped by the Fitial administration—tracked him down on Grand Cayman Island in the western Caribbean.

Inos said tracking Millard down "has been in the work for quite sometime."

"It's a complex case because it crosses international jurisdictions because of the location of the assets… So it takes a lot of time to put it together," he said.

Inos said the Millard issue remains a "collection case."

"This is a civil matter. This is not a criminal matter, at least not just yet. It's a collection case and we're just trying to get what we can get from what we believe is owed. That's it," he said.

If the Fitial administration succeeds in collecting from Millard, that money "will not solve our problem but it will at least (solve) some of the issues of the day."

What Millard owes the government is more than the CNMI government's projected revenue available for its operations in fiscal year 2012 starting on Oct. 1.

Inos said the administration, through Kobre & Kim, will continue to pursue the case.

He said the administration will "let the process work here because we don't want to rush this thing to a point where we will lose the whole effort."

The administration is also trying to identify Millard's assets on Saipan, including the so-called "castle" that now houses the Marianas Christian Church.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Inos announced on Monday that the government initiated proceedings in the U.S. District Court of the NMI against Willard and his wife Patricia Millard in relation to a $118,043,5353 CNMI income tax claim.

In July 1994, the Commonwealth obtained judgments against Millard in the amount of $18,317,980.80 and against his wife in the amount of $18,318,113.41 for a grand total of $36,636,094.21.

With the accumulation of statutory interest the total value of these two judgments has increased to the current value of $118,043,535.

"The Millards should have paid the initial $36 million in income tax liability when they realized the gain on their stock sale; instead they chose to ignore the tax authority of the Commonwealth," the governor had said.

MEDICARE

From Page 1

shown many corrective measures that contributed to fewer "concerns" highlighted by Medicare team.

It was in January last year when Medicare investigated CHC and found serious deficiencies, resulting in the issuance of jeopardy status and the threat of terminating its provider agreement with the federal agency. Since then corrective measures were submitted and taken into action, according to Villagomez.

He revealed that based on the exit conference with the Medicare team last week, the hospital's jeopardy status is expected to be lifted and may be issued an improved status.

"Overall, we did well [in the inspection]. But although there are things we corrected from the previous findings, Medicare highlighted that there are still five key areas that need to be improved and we're in the process of correcting those," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

The secretary pointed out that some of the findings and concerns raised by the Medicare team were directly related to budgetary issues such as the lack of needed supplies in the emergency room and laboratory.

He said the Medicare team emphasized that lack of funds should not hinder this requirement because supplies are considered a priority and should always be available for healthcare delivery.

As a result, the Department of Finance approved the acquisition of needed medical and laboratory supplies after paying unpaid obligations to CHC vendors.

"The supplies have been ordered and are coming in. Medicare clearly said that we should not run out of those important supplies," said Villagomez.

The formal report for the inspection is expected from Medicare in two weeks' time after the exit conference. Villagomez said "findings" are normal in every survey done in hospitals.

The secretary admitted that while financial issues impacted the Medicare findings, he pointed out that he's more concerned about the lack of resources in the delivery of healthcare to people.

"If we don't have the needed supplies, yes it impacts Medicare. But I am not too much concerned about impact on the Medicare inspection, but the impact of the lack of supplies on healthcare delivery," he said.

Villagomez credited the hospital's hard working staff and employees who made significant strides to make sure that CHC meets Medicare standards and demands.

He cited the "regular documentations" of hospital staffers as a big help during the Medicare inspection.

Villagomez also vowed to improve the line of communication among and between hospital units and staffers to address issues of expired medical and pharmaceutical supplies.

"This concern has to do with the communication between people handling supplies in the units and in the supply office. Proper procedures and policies are now in place to address those concerns," he added.

IN EFFORT TO COLLECT $118M FROM MILLARDS

CNMI seeks court's letter to take testimony, obtain evidence abroad

The CNMI government has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a letter of request to allow the government take testimony and obtain evidence abroad in its efforts to collect over $118 million in unpaid income tax plus interest on judgments against Computer-Land Corp. retail chain founder William H. Millard and his wife Patricia.

Attorney Michael S. Kim of Kobre & Kim LLP law firm stated in his declaration filed in District Court on Friday that the letter of request will assist the CNMI government in obtaining information relevant to proceedings as against the Millard couple.

Kim said in particular, this application is made in this court for the issuance of a request to the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands for the obtaining of evidence in aid of these proceedings.

The Millards moved to Saipan in 1986. They left in August 1990 and their whereabouts have been unknown, until recently when the CNMI government's lawyers and investigators tracked them on Grand Cayman Island.

In July 1994, the CNMI government obtained default judgments from the District Court against the Millards for a total amount of $36,636,094.21.

The accumulation of statutory interest, the total value of the two judgments has ballooned to the current $118,043,535.

The Fitial administration tapped in 2010 the services of Kobre & Kim law firm to collect the unpaid tax claim from the Millards. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-convict gets 3 years in jail for domestic violence, again

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman yesterday slapped a three-year jail term against an ex-convict who committed domestic violence anew.

Wiseman sentenced the 53-year-old Jesus R. Jones to five years in prison, all suspended except 36 months, with credit for the time he already served in jail.

Wiseman said should Jones violate the terms of his probation by committing another crime of domestic violence, the remaining months of the suspended sentence will be re-imposed (in addition to possible additional criminal charges).

After completing the jail term, Jones will be placed on three years of probation. He was ordered to pay a $500 fine, $100 court costs, and probation service fee.

Jones will be required to perform 100 hours of community work service. He was ordered to pay restitution to the victim for any needed medical or psychological evaluation or treatment.

The defendant was ordered to write a letter of apology to the victim, prohibited from possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages during the probationary period, and required to complete anger management counseling and any other counseling recommended by the treatment provider or the Office of Adult Probation.

According to the plea agreement, on May 10, 2011 on Saipan, Jones assaulted the victim with a coffee mug in the presence of a child.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Jones with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of disturbing the peace, and one count of contempt.

The OAG alleged that Jones assaulted the victim with a coffee mug and high heels sandals. It also alleged that the defendant failed to comply with a court's order issued on May 21, 2010.

On May 21, 2010, associate judge Perry Inos imposed a one-year jail term on Jones for violating a court order barring him from any contact with his victim in a domestic violence case.

In March 2009, police arrested Jones for allegedly beating up his wife after she refused to have sex with him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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235-2030

Tax cover over, school funds for NMI in Jobs Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The White House released the American Jobs Act in legislative language for Congress late yesterday. Included among its provisions are a cover-over of funds to the CNMI Treasury to pay for tax credits to employers, which President Obama has proposed to encourage hiring. The Northern Marianas and other U.S. insular areas will also receive a set-aside for teacher salaries and school modernization, much as they did in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"I am very grateful to the President for keeping the special tax circumstances of the Northern Marianas in mind," said Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan. "And for continuing to recognize the importance of educating people to get our economy moving."

President Obama delivered his jobs act proposals in broad outline to a joint session of Congress on Thursday night, but details like the cover-over provision were left to the legislative language the White House was drafting.

Sablan wrote to the President on Friday, the day after the speech, supporting the American Jobs Act, but reminding Obama of the need for funds to be covered over to the Commonwealth government to pay for tax credits.

The Jobs Act contains a tax credit of up to $4,000 to employers who hire workers who have been unemployed for six months or more. A $5,600 tax credit is available for hiring veterans and a $9,600 credit for hiring veterans with disabilities.

The Making Work Pay tax credit in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included a cover-over provision, which transferred over $15.9 million to the CNMI Treasury. Last year's HIRE Act provided a similar cover over for a tax credit to employers who hired new employees and kept them for at least one year.

"Like the Recovery Act and the EduJobs Act before it, the new American Jobs Act also includes funding for teacher salaries and for school renovations," Sablan said. "And the Northern Marianas are fully included."

Some $150 million is set aside for the insular areas in the Teacher Stabilization section of the Jobs Act. The funds are intended to prevent teacher layoffs and also to create additional jobs in public early childhood, elementary, and secondary education. As with the Recovery Act, the Commonwealth would be required to keep school funding at least the level of the previous fiscal year, although a waiver is provided for a state or territory experiencing a precipitous decline in financial resources.

About $125 million is provided for the four smaller insular areas for school modernization, renovation, and repair of public elementary or secondary schools and for facilities used for early learning programs. Private schools would also be eligible for some funding to help with compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other limited purposes.

The proposed American Jobs Act also makes $12.5 million available for community college modernization in the insular areas.

"The President's bill is just a proposal at this point," Sablan said. "But I agree with the strategy of providing incentives for employers to hire in the short-term.

"And for the long-term our economic well-being will always depend on having people with skills and education.

"The President's proposal helps us there, as well. Just as I did the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," added Sablan, "I'll be supporting the American Jobs Act." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MVA, NMDOA CLEANUP

Representatives of the Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association and the Marianas Visitors Authority conducted a cleanup of Laulau Beach on July 28. The two tourism-related organizations jointly adopted the popular dive site and keep it clear of overgrowth and trash with regular clean-ups.

'Stigma reason why Liyo housing barely occupied'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A board member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. raised concerns that one reason why the Section 8 housing on Rota is barely occupied is the stigma brought by dwelling in housing units for low-income families.

Diego Songao questioned during the board's meeting yesterday if anybody has already signed up for the Liyo housing after incentives have been provided by NMHC.

"I'm trying to dig in to the reasons as to why these people don't want to stay in the housing. Is there an internal problem with them that they don't want? Is it the image?" Songao asked the other board members.

Songao said he wanted to know the progress of the Liyo housing occupancy "because if that (incentives) is not working, then something is wrong."

According to Songao, it might be that families who can benefit from Liyo housing do not want to be "segmented in that kind of class" and have people look down on them and treat them differently.

Songao pointed out the "social problem" of bullying on young school children staying in the Section 8 housing neighborhood.

"I will assure you that that is a problem. Perhaps maybe we can help. I'd like the director to really look into that and analyze whether this behavior continues to be and that we won't be filling these units if that is the sentiment of a lot of people," he said.

Corporate director Joshua Sasamoto added that the "stigma problem" is true among Section 8 dwellers across the nation, adding that NMHC spends a lot of money to ensure that its Section 8 housing units are maintained.

Board chair Marcie Tomokane, for her part, noted that this concern has been raised and discussed many times, even by previous board members.

While she indicated that the social behavior and culture in the small community of Rota brings about its uniqueness, Tomokane also noted that NMHC has already made all efforts to reach out to the residents and encouraged tenancy in Liyo housing.

The Liyo housing, Tomokane said, is situated in a "nice community" and highly elevated part of Songsong village.

When Songao revealed that the current Liyo housing sign identifies the community as a Section 8 subdivision, Tomokane said it must be removed right away and change the name to something similar to Mihaville or Tottotville Estate.

"We need to change it because maybe that is the eye-catcher there," said Tomokane.

Man allegedly beats up wife, tried to stab her with knife, slaps child

A 34-year-old man was arrested for allegedly beating up and trying to stab his wife with a kitchen knife and slapping her minor daughter in Achugao late afternoon Sunday.

Murphy Martin was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and child abuse.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a $10,000 cash bail for Martin's temporary release.

The Public Defender's Office was appointed to represent the defendant. Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 22 at 9am.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that on Sunday at 7am, Martin's wife was getting ready for work when she noticed that Martin has not come home since he left on Saturday night.

When she came out from work at 3:30pm, Martin was already waiting for her in the parking lot. On their way home, he stopped by Grand Market and told his wife to buy him beer.

The wife got out of the car and started walking home. As she was walking, a coworker stopped and gave her a ride home.

While the victim was at her neighbor's home, Martin arrived and called his wife.

Martin confronted the wife, who was in the kitchen, for hiding in a neighbor's house where he could not beat her up.

When the wife told him, she was not hiding, Martin allegedly slapped her on the face twice. The victim's minor daughter started crying, but he told her to stop crying and allegedly slapped her face as well.

The neighbor went to the kitchen where she saw Martin punching the victim on the head and face.

The neighbor pulled Martin away. The suspect grabbed two kitchen knives and walked to the wife who was still on the kitchen floor.

Martin was allegedly about to stab the wife when the neighbor struggled with him to take the knives away. The defendant then left the residence.

The neighbor brought the victim to her residence. Martin again allegedly slapped her face twice, and punched her on the head.

Martin walked out of the house as two patrol officers arrived. The officers asked him not to leave, but he managed to run and hide.

Martin was located at 11:22pm that day in Tanapag where he was arrested. Two knives used by Martin were confiscated as evidence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza
Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CANCELED

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will hold a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2011-X-052 submitted Blue Water Homes, LLC for the construction of 80 residential units in Chalan Piao, Saipan, lot numbers 458-NEW-1, 458-NEW-2, 458-NEW-3 and 743-1-1.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011, 6:30 P.M. at the CRM Office conference room.

The public is invited to attend and make oral comments regarding this project. The project file is open for review or comments during business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. Written comments may be submitted to the CRM office located in the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan or fax at 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will become part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you require further information regarding this project and/or public hearing.

RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ
Administrator
Coastal Resources Management

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

RFP11-DPH-125
Submission Date: October 17, 2011 • Time: 2:00 p.m.

"CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES"

The RFP package may be obtained at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **October 04, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., local time**, at the Commonwealth Health Center Conference Room.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Projects funded by CDBG near completion

Four of the five projects funded through the Community Development Block Grant are approaching completion, according to planner and grant writer Jeannie P. Mafnas of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

These projects are the rehabilitation of the Dandan Children's Park for $33,602; rehabilitation of Sinapalo Children's Park on Rota, $370,950; purchase of equipment for Tinian Fire Station, $99,975; and rehabilitation of Gilbert C. Ada gymnasium, $268,000.

Only the purchase of a 500,000-gallon fuel storage tank for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for $630,500 has been completed, said Mafnas.

Mafnas said that the projects are going on as scheduled. "It's a process but they're all meeting deadlines. They're all nearly completed," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the projects are expected to be finished within the next few weeks.

Mafnas noted that the CDBG monies used to fund the five projects are funding from previous program years that have been approved for reprogramming for these projects.

Administered by the NMHC, the CDBG program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

The program was established in 1974 and is one of the longest continuously run programs under HUD.

In other news, NMHC has been granted for program year 2010 $824,363 in CDBG funds, $40,642 under the Emergency Shelter Grant, and $570,054 for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

Mafnas noted that since the CDBG funding is a formula grant, it was reduced given the decrease in the CNMI population.

Meanwhile, Mafnas said that the ESG will be divided equally between the Division of Youth Services shelter and the Guma Esperansa. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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DPL 'retrieves' 155 homestead lots in Kagman

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday that a total of 155 homestead lots in Kagman have been retrieved by the agency from its "original permittees."

"These had been retrieved by the department and put them in the pool to be formally reissued out to the next qualified applicants," Babauta said at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

According to Babauta, the reasons for the retrieval of the 155 homestead lots vary.

"Some of them opted to just pack up and leave the island for economic reasons: to seek greener pasture, to better their family lives abroad," he said, adding that some of them were also non-compliant to the permit conditions.

These homestead lots, Babauta said, will soon be awarded to 155 of the over 3,500 applicants in the waiting list, with only 75 percent of them considered qualified.

The secretary noted that they are working on applications they received in 1992 and 1993. "That's how far back we are," he added.

Once the agency has conducted "an official declaration" of the homestead lots by the end of the year, Babauta said they will be servicing the next 155 applicants in the waiting list.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Department of Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta talks about the agency's homestead program at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

Moratorium

Babauta said DPL has stopped accepting homestead applications in April 2006 because of the moratorium on land compensation payments and village homestead programs declared by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

"Because of the scarcity of suitable homesteading sites, it is with that reason that the administration and Public Lands agreed in principle to suspend this program for the time being," he said.

While Babauta said that there is still a possibility that the moratorium will be lifted, he disclosed that they're looking at working with private developers similar to Sandy Beach Homes LLC and Blue Water Homes LLC to allow homestead applicants to avail of what these projects have to offer.

"Something like this in the future is very foreseeable," he told reporters after the meeting.

Tinian and Rota

Babauta noted, however, that the moratorium is only applicable to Saipan.

The secretary disclosed that they're going to open up 247 homestead lots at the West San Jose Homestead Subdivision on Tinian and 126 lots at Sabana on Rota.

According to Babauta, the Tinian lots will be available once the environmental assessment is completed and basic homestead infrastructure such as power, water, and roads are in place.

For the Rota lots, Babauta said the project contractor just finished the overall A&E design, biological and ecological surveys, and environmental assessment.

Babauta added that some $5 million each for Tinian and Rota are still needed to solicit and approve proposals for the homestead subdivision lots.

Council accepting nominations for Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2011 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories: Research and Publication in the Humanities, Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices, Preservation of CNMI History, and Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).

The most prestigious award—Lifetime Achievement—is given to a nominee who has made significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

The 2010 awardees included Jose Dela Cruz for Research and Publication in the Humanities; Donald Mendiola for Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; Don Farrell for Preservation of CNMI History; Sudi Napalan for Outstanding Humanities Teacher; and the late Dr. Pius "Mau" Piailug for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

Nomination forms and instructions are available at the Council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, or on the council website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Nominations may be made by any member of the general public and are due no later than 4:30pm on Oct. 11, 2011.

For more information, contact the council office at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy third birthday go out to Tyreen Mercedes Dela Rosa Aguon, who is celebrating her special day today, Sept. 14. Wishing you many more joyous birthdays to come! God bless and we love you! Greetings coming out from Handsome Butts, Fashu, family, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated birthday greetings go out to Mary C. Villagomez who celebrated her birthday on Monday, Sept. 12. Sorry for the delayed birthday greeting but wishing you the best on your special day and many more to come. Coming from your gangsters at Laolao Beach.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free health checkup today at Oleai pavilion

Commonwealth Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Coalition chair Clyde Norita is inviting the public to join the group's activity today at the Oleai pavilion from 4pm to 6pm where it will hold free health checkup and screening to community members. Besides informational materials, women who will show up for breast cancer screening will be provided $10 gas coupon.

On Saturday, Sept. 17, the coalition members will also hold a bagging activity at Joeten Shopping Center where health brochures and freebies will also be handed in to customers from 8am to 12pm. These activities are in line with the monthlong celebration of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

SIS Fun Run this Saturday

Saipan International School is having its 11th SIS 5K Fun Run this coming Saturday beginning at Banzai Cliff. Registration starts at 6am. Race starts at 7am. Registration fee is $10. First 120 participants will receive a T-shirt and a raffle ticket. We have really great prizes, such a one-night stay at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, dinner certificates, golf entrances, spa entrances, etc. For registration or more information, contact Mili Saiki at 288-9660 or milisaiki@hotmail.com. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach in September

Tina San Agustin, the Department of Veterans Affairs' legal administrative specialist for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Saipan on Sept. 28-29, 2011, for a Veterans Outreach on veterans' federal benefits. She will be also entertaining questions and assisting veterans and all concerned with their claims.

Agustin will be stationed at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office on Capitol Hill, building 1364, Saipan, from 8:30am to 4:30pm on both days.

For those who wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 14, 2000

High court upholds decision on land exchange

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a decision by the Superior Court which ruled that the Marianas Public Land Corp. had no duty to consummate the land exchange with ailing businessman Luis Benavente. "If there is no public purpose to be served, the government is not legally or equitably bound to complete the exchange," the court said in a decision issued by Supreme Court Justices Pro Tem Juan T. Lizama, Timothy H. Bellas, and Marty W.K. Taylor. The high court noted that to obtain land by exchange, the governor must certify its public purpose. Former Gov. Larry Guerrero had originally certified the land was needed for public use but then Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio reversed the certification.

CRM wants fishing activities curbed

The Coastal Resources Management has urged lawmakers to pass legislation restricting fishing activities in CNMI waters in an effort to protect diminishing marine resources on the islands. Peter J. Barlas, acting CRM director, said that while his office regulates use of marine resources, it does not have power or the technical expertise to perform such function. He maintained "improper and unethical" fishing methods have impacted on the degradation of natural resources and the legislative proposal will help deter further damage. HB 12-249, otherwise known as the Marine Protection Act of 2000, seeks to prohibit destructive fishing practices in the Commonwealth in order to preserve the livelihood of local fishermen.

Sept. 14, 2001

National air travel ban lifted

US Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta has directed the opening of the national airspace at 1am this morning (local time), paving the way for the resumption of flights suspended to and from the US mainland and territories, including the CNMI. After a special meeting with different airlines to iron out flight schedules, Mineta directed the Federal Aviation Administration to open the airports across the country to inbound and outbound flights at about 11am, Eastern Time. Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed that a special meeting with airline companies will be held today to discuss the resumption of regular flights.

US Navy confirms Farallon's significance

Of all the targets in the Western Pacific available to forward deployed units, only the Farallon de Medinilla offers the target fidelity, access and maneuver space required to maintain the war-fighting capabilities of the United States. This was stressed by Rear Admiral Tom S. Fellin of the US Navy, in response to queries made by Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero on the importance of the Farallon de Medinilla Island to the US military's purposes. Fellin said that long-term unrestricted access to the Farallon de Medinilla provides for the essential combat readiness required of units forward deployed in the Western Pacific.

Sept. 14, 2002

NMI gains from Assistive Tech donations worth $50K

A very generous donation worth $50,000 of Assistive Technology equipment/device will take place today, 3:30pm at the WestPac Freight Terminal, Puerto Rico, Saipan, across from Saipan Shipping Company. Roque and Chris Ebert Santos, M.D., of Colorado-who are former residents of Saipan-decided to donate their son's one year old mini-van equipped with accessible features that allows a person who uses a wheelchair to access the vehicle. A local parent and her son are the beneficiary of the van worth $35,000. The van will surely increase the independence and inclusion of this family with a member with a disability who uses a power-wheelchair.

CPA beefs up revenue-generating plans

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will renew its call for the Legislature to waive the poker machine fee at the Tinian and Rota airports, in efforts to help the agency save some money for its operations. Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the ports authority pays about $8,000 each year for the 10 gaming machines installed at the Rota and Tinian airports. "The $8,000 could already translate to significant savings for the CPA, which is in need of additional money to carry out effective management and administration of all air and sea transport facilities throughout the Northern Marianas," Salas said.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 025 E 01, containing an area of approximately 12,225 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is L&T Group of Companies, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, and Glicerio Arago.

The President of the Corporation is Willie Tan. The Vice President is Jerry Tan. The Treasurer/Secretary is Glicerio Arago.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Glicerio Arago.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of warehousing, moving, loading and unloading and storage of property , and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENSION ATKILON TÅNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi nutisia Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku Siha guini ha nutisia na i intension-ña na para u rekumenda i inekstendin atkilon gi sigienti na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha.

Esti i inekstendin atkilon masuhetu para i inaprueban i Leyislatura gi Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum imfetmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra gi tinahgui na propositu siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Komu sigi mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, gi sigienti pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda para u mapupblika.

i. I atkilon i lugåt madiskribi komu tanu' pupbliku Lot No. 025 E 01, kinonsisti kåsi guaha 12,225 na åria (square meters), putlumenus pat mås, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian esti na lugåt yan i pumalu nai guaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku ni para u marikunosi.

ii. I manatkikila i L & T Group of Companies, Ltd., i CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Kuetpu siha gi Corporation si Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, yan si Glicerio Arago.

I Presidentin i Corporation si Willie Tan. I Sigundu Presidenti si Jerry Tan. I Tresureru/Sikritåriu si Glicerio Arago.

iii. I maproponin inekstendin atkilon manigosiu as Siñot Glicerio Arago.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kuntinuha umusa i lugåt solamienti para i maneran operasion bisnis i warehousing, moving, loading yan unloading yan storage i property, yan aktibidåt siha ni uma'achuli' guihi siha.

I teman esti na kuntråta inekstendin atkilon sa' kinsi (15) åñus.

v. I kopian i kuntråtan i manmaproponi na inekstendin atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, gaigi gi mina'sigundu(2nd) bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat gi Primet(1st) bibienda giya Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu tanu' pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sikritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta i tinigi' imfotmasion, opiñon, testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i gai intires na petsona siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sów Ffééról Allégh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe ischilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.025 E 01, ebwe yoor seigh me eew sangaras ruwabwughúw reweigh me limoow llapal (12, 225 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge L&T Group of Company, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil asamwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, me Glicerio Arago.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Willie Tan. Arúscheyil Samwool nge Jerry Tan.
Treasurer/Secretary nge Glicerio Arago.

iii. School aweweel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Glicerio Arago..

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe sobwey yaal mwóghut ágheli bisinisil sokko, amwatal me atotootiw me sokkol peiragh me akkááw mwóghutul.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

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i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 010 B 96, containing an area of approximately 909 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 010 B 97, containing an area of approximately 1,072 square meters, more or less, situated in San Roque, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is V & C Enterprises, Inc., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, and Neda B. Camacho.

The President of the Corporation is Victoria B. Camacho. The Vice Presidents are Cathy C. Villagomez and Claudine B. Camacho. The Treasurer is Michelle C. Macaranas. The Secretary is Neda B. Camacho.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating a grocery store, coin operated laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage and facilities directly related to these activities.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in San Roque, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u rekumenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Esti na inekstendin atkilon siha manmasuhetu para i inaprueban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas gi sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 010 B 96, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 909 square meters, putlumenus mås, yan i Lot No. 010 B 97, kinonsisti i åria ni kåsi guaha 1,072 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya San Roque, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i V & C Enterprises, Inc., i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, yan si Neda B. Camacho.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho. I sigundu Presidenti si Cathy C. Villagomez yan si Claudine B. Camacho. I Tresureria si Michelle C. Macaranas. I Sekritåria si Neda B. Camacho.

iii. I maproponi na ekstension atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñora Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai i operasion tendan grocery, coin operated laundromat, inistapblesin måkinan poker, setbisiun gasoline/filling station, mini mart, storage yan fasilidåt siha ni mana'achuli' guini na aktibidåt.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi duråntin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya San Roque, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL EBWE SÓBWEEYLÓ AKKILON-UL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (a) me (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyool Faluweer Toulap ekke atotoow ammataf igha e tipáli bwe ebwe tingóór extension reel akkilon mereel eghus falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Lease extension yeel ebwe alúghúlúghló mereel Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas Commonwealth Legislature sángi llól mandate ye e towoow mellól Article XI, § 5(c) mellól Constitution-ul Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Reer toulap schóókka eyoor yaar mwuschel rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng, aweewe me angiingil reel poomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoora lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Akkilon-ul falúw yeel ekke bwááriló bwe public land Lot No. 010 B 96, emmwel ebwe yoor tiwabwughúw tiwoow (909) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, me ebwe yoor eew Lot No. 010 B 97 sangaras fissigh me ruwoow (1,072) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo San Roque, Seipél. Tiliighil bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyol Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schóól lessee nge V & C Enterprises, Inc, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur Board-ul Corporation yeel nge ikka, Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, me Neda B. Camacho.

President-il Corporation yeel nge Victoria B. Camacho. Vice President nge Cathy C. Villagomez me Claudine B. Camacho. Treasurer nge Michelle C. Macaranas. Secretary nge Neda B. Camacho.

iii. Schóól aweewel pomwol lease extension yeel nge Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe sóbweyló yaal yáál bwuley yeel reel mwóghutul ebwe ayoor grocery store, coin operated Laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage me facilities kka ebwe yááyá reel milikkaal.

Tool abwungubwungul extension yeel nge seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol annual rental reel tool nge ebwe bweibwogh sángi percentage-il appraised fair market value reel properties.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul ebwe sóbweeyló akkilon yeel emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mellól bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap(Department of Public Land) esáál bweighbwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye public lands me San Roque, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Secretary of the Department of Public Lands) ebwe bwughil iischil mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa mereel pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli, wóól me ngáre mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) kka elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

A jobs generator?

The much-anticipated jobs plan President Obama laid out Thursday evening borrows a page from the tax package he negotiated with GOP leaders in December. In order to get the stimulus spending he wants, Obama proposed to give Republicans tax breaks they've supported in the past—with a promise not to increase the deficit. The $447-billion plan isn't particularly novel, relying on familiar tax breaks, infrastructure projects and grants to state and local governments. The details, though, may not matter as much as how lawmakers respond to them. The bitterly partisan brinkmanship in Washington over the debt ceiling weakened the public's already shaky confidence; reaching bipartisan agreement on even a modest jobs plan could help undo that damage. It's a rare moment of political convergence for the president and his critics.

The collapse of the financial industry not only sent the economy into a deep hole; its lingering aftershocks continue to slow the recovery. Nevertheless, there are signs of vigor in corporate America, including high profits and healthy cash reserves. That vigor hasn't translated into investment and new jobs here, largely because businesses worry that there won't be enough demand for their products and services. Consumers, meanwhile, are saving more and paring their debts because they're anxious about where the economy is heading.

Obama's plan tries to prod companies to hire more by slashing the payroll tax for most businesses, and by offering larger breaks for those that hire more workers and that hire unemployed veterans or applicants who have been out of work for more than six months. It also includes several initiatives to put more money into consumers' hands, including extending and increasing the payroll tax break for workers, funding more than $100 billion worth of infrastructure projects and letting more homeowners refinance mortgages that are larger than the value of their homes. The cost would be offset by having Congress enact almost $2 trillion worth of spending cuts and tax increases over the coming decade, instead of the $1.5 trillion called for by the agreement to raise the debt ceiling.

The president is right to call for his plan to be paid for, and right to suggest that it be done over time. But his speech offered no new thoughts on how to do so; instead, Obama simply repeated his call for modest reforms in entitlements and more taxes on the wealthy. That message was a sharp contrast to the plan's middle-of-the-road combination of tax cuts and spending increases.

The president's plan provides a good starting point for talks. Lawmakers now have a duty to respond—and to respond quickly.

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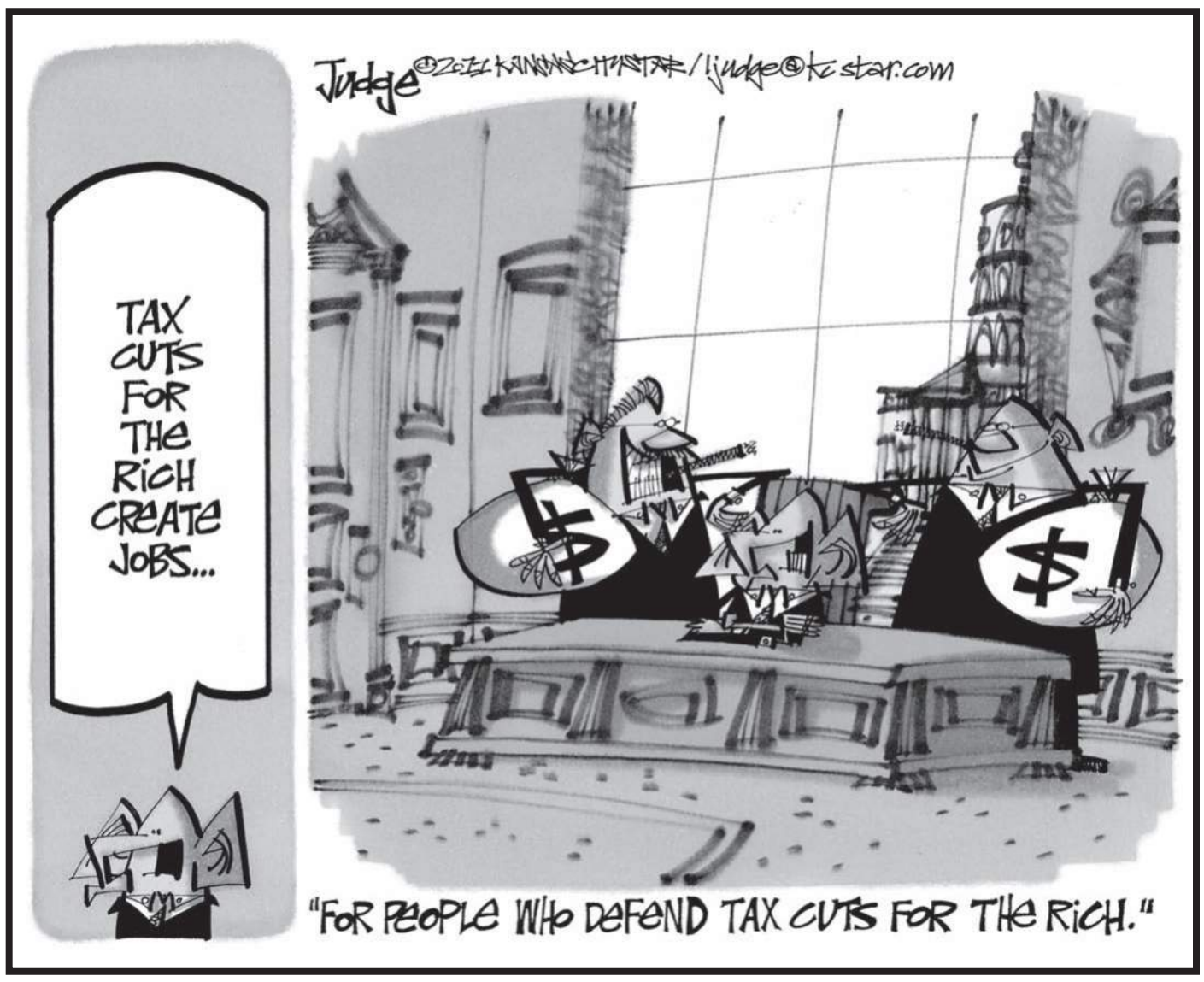


Al-Qaida is down, not out

By AMY ZEGART
Los Angeles Times

Amy Zegart is a senior fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution and the author of "Eyes on Spies: Congress and the United States Intelligence Community." She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Talk of strategically defeating al-Qaida is all the rage in the White House these days. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta used the "D-word" in July. President Obama declared in his new counter-terrorism strategy, "We can say with growing confidence ... that we have put al-Qaida on the path to defeat." Compared to the woeful state of the economy, terrorism has become the administration's feel-good story of the year.

"Defeat" is a big word. It is also dangerously misleading. Yes, the United States has made great strides in the last decade to harden targets, improve intelligence and degrade the capabilities of violent Islamist extremists. Osama bin Laden's death was a major accomplishment. But the fight is nowhere close to being won, and America's most perilous times may lie ahead. Three reasons explain why.

The first is that strategically defeating al-Qaida is not nearly as important as it sounds. After 9/11, al-Qaida morphed into a more complicated, decentralized and elusive threat consisting of three elements: core al-Qaida; affiliates or franchise groups operating in places like Yemen and Somalia with loose ties to the core group; and homegrown terrorists inspired by violent extremism, often through the Internet in the comfort of their own living rooms.

Core al-Qaida capabilities started degrading in 2001, when the United States invaded Afghanistan, dismantled training camps, ousted the Taliban and sent bin Laden running. The CIA has estimated the core group remaining in the Afghanistan/Pakistan region to number 50 to 100 fighters. The last time bin Laden oversaw a successful operation was 2005, when al-Qaida struck the London transit system.

But plots by homegrowns and franchise groups have risen dramatically in recent years. The 2009 Fort Hood shooting, the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil since 9/11, was the work of a homegrown terrorist. The "mastermind" of the 2010 Times Square car bomb plot was a naturalized American citizen trained by the Pakistani Taliban, not al-Qaida. Another franchise group, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, was behind the foiled 2009 Christmas Day "underwear bomber" aviation plot and the 2010 plot to explode tampered printer cartridges aboard cargo planes. The Bipartisan Policy Center reported 11 violent Islamist extremist terrorist incidents against the U.S. homeland in 2009, the most since 9/11. Nearly all involved what former CIA Director Mike Hayden calls "a witches' brew" of radicalized Americans and franchise groups.

The second reason talk of defeat is premature has to do with weapons. Terrorism against Americans is nothing new. The potential for terrorist groups to acquire weapons of mass destruction is. In 1995, a Japanese cult released sarin nerve gas in the Tokyo subway, killing 12 people and injuring thousands. It was the first WMD terrorist attack in modern history, and it sparked a wave of presidential terrorism commissions years before bin Laden became a household name.

It is this specter of the lone fanatic or small group armed with the world's most devastating weapons that keeps experts up at night. In 2005, 60 leading nuclear scientists and terrorism experts were asked how many believed the odds of a nuclear attack on the United States were negligible. Only three or four hands went up; most were far more pessimistic. Today, there is enough nuclear material to build 120,000 weapons. As long as fissile material is poorly stored and rogue states like Iran and North Korea continue their illicit weapons programs, nuclear terrorism remains a haunting possibility.

The third reason is that the FBI has not yet become a first-rate domestic intelligence agency. Analysts, whose work is vital to success, are still second-class citizens, labeled "support staff" alongside secretaries and janitors, and passed over for key jobs, including running the bureau's intelligence units. The FBI's information technology is so antiquated, it belongs in a museum. And the old crime-fighting culture still lives. There is now a move afoot to shrink new classified facilities so that agents don't have to "waste time" away from their cases to read intelligence documents there.

"Strategically defeating al-Qaida" sounds too good to be true. Because it is.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Govt ignores role in Fund debacle

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

As retirees, we diligently paid our dues in hopes that someday, as we head into our twilight years, we would receive a portion of our contributions.

But politicians played the Ponzi Scheme year-round since 1979 with our contributions spending it defying the very intent of contributions, including a generous 3 percent per year for being legislators, a housing program that had to be shut down, junkets and membership on the board without background or clue about investment, among others.

The new law dubbed "uncertain variable" derailing the integrity of the Fund is really the rights of every retiree to sue the fund when our interests are on the verge of ruination by the illustrious board and its horde of legal eagles, including consultants. For several administrations, employer's contribution weren't paid the Fund. This pile of purposeful negligence, including the current administration, has piled up into a tall debt of some $300 million.

What we see today is the price of purposeful negligence at the expense of retirees and Fund members, victims to negligence and unbridled spending habits of the various boards over the last decade. As a retiree, I'd like to bring substantive matters to court, i.e., refusal of the administration to remit its dues to ensure the solvency of the Fund. It's my due process rights to keep dazed politicians without real leadership from sending the Fund into permanent insolvency for omission of fiduciary responsibilities.

In brief, if I can't trust the governor-appointed board's decision then I'd like to reserve as a member to sue. Too, the court is mindful that it isn't supposed to entertain frivolous suits. But the due process rights of any individual can't be denied arbitrarily.

Blame the demise of the fund entirely on politicians who have made self-interest their agenda as to drive it to the ground. We now see bankruptcy descending on the Fund after years of the government failing to own-up to its responsibility and one too many parties and feeding off a hog's back.

■■■

SNAP can help most families

Family household incomes have either remained flat for nearly a decade or have gone south as austerity is slapped against employees in both sectors.

It's mind-boggling the moronic level of the feud between Kilili and Fitial. It's about "credit robbing". However the adolescent intramural excuse, it doesn't change the fact that most of our folks here are in dire financial straits who needed this form of help, today!

The impending opening of the Disneyland of Unemployment here makes it more the reason to stay focus on this matter. It could make-up for zero or work hour reduction on family household incomes though steak and lobster would remain pipe dream menus for most families even with SNAP.

Reportedly, food stamp rolls declined by 0.5 percent in June to a still-high 45.2 million, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said last Friday. It was the first decline since October 2008 and likely reflects declining disaster assistance to states like Alabama rather than improvements in household finances.

"As we continue to create jobs and grow the economy, we anticipate that participation in SNAP will decline, which is everyone's goal," the USDA said in a statement. "However, future participation in SNAP will likely be impacted by state natural disaster requests as American families continue to recover from recent storms."

"Food stamp rolls exploded during the downturn, which began in late 2007. Even after the recession came to its official end in June 2009, families continued to tap into food assistance as unemployment remained high and those lucky enough to find jobs were often met with lower wages <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304248704575574213897770830.html> as a result of work hour reductions.

"States also made changes to make it easier for residents to tap into the program, such as waiving requirements that limited the value of assets food stamp recipients could own." Let's do it, it's the right thing to do and we promise not to sniff for that sumptuous steak and lobster!

> *What we see today is the price of purposeful negligence at the expense of retirees and Fund members, victims to negligence and unbridled spending habits of the various boards over the last decade. As a retiree, I'd like to bring substantive matters to court, i.e., refusal of the administration to remit its dues to ensure the solvency of the Fund. It's my due process rights to keep dazed politicians without real leadership from sending the Fund into permanent insolvency for omission of fiduciary responsibilities.*

Guerrero's constructive approach

A measure filed by Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero to cut rebates on a graduated basis is a constructive vehicle to address the Retirement Fund from sinking into bankruptcy, permanently.

It may not be the perfect measure but a piece of legislation that ought to stir more ideas how to cushion the fund from crashing into the sea of omission by Republican administrations who thought walking quietly in the tulip garden of neglect would absolve them from misfeasance and malfeasance in office.

Cutting the rebate per income bracket is a good start and grateful too that it avoids completely ridding it from taxpayers. You can argue both sides of the equation solidly, i.e., why do away with rebates at this juncture. But then, you have to give consumers their share in order to spend and support the local economy.

It's comforting to know someone of Guerrero's caliber could work under stressful conditions and still emerge with constructive measures. He's determined to begin rebuilding what most political air heads have seen fit to ignore. At least, I find him my last ray of hope among an entrenched bunch.

He uses the traditional wisdom basket as he listens intently and begins his sober thought process. I admire his cool-headed confidence and calm disposition. It's a rare trait where Guerrero outshines all his colleagues.

■■■

Buddy Magoo was laughing his heart out the other day. Pressed to share the laugh, he related, "Eh, the lady came into CUC and told her friend that she's there to pay her Ulithi Bill'. I said try "perhaps" or "indoubatably," war words from two high school dropouts bluffing each other on their English vocabulary. Seeesuzzzz!

Letters to the Editor

Throwing the baby out with the bathwater

In a clear case of discrimination against the disabled, the sick, the elderly, the infirm, not to mention working mothers, the Department of Homeland Security has, in its recently issued Transitional Worker Classification Final Rule, arbitrarily and totally disenfranchised some 950 contract workers. By requiring that domestic helpers, caregivers, maids, houseworkers be employed indirectly, through a "legitimate" business, DHS has, not to mix metaphors, thrown the baby out with the bathwater, failing to make a distinction between the cases of abuse cited by commentators on the Rule and the very real, legitimate need for such contract workers in the community.

According to the Rule, as it appeared in the Federal Register, "there is evidence that directly-employed [domestic] workers have been subject to widespread abuse and have been victims of human trafficking...DHS believes that the CNRA transitional worker provisions were intended to...combat such abuses. As such, this final rule limits eligibility to petition for a CW worker to a legitimate business...DHS believes that this provision regarding legitimate businesses will combat such abuse by providing workers protection from such direct employment."

That's an admirable goal. But the implementation discriminates against responsible employers who have legitimate need of the services of such domestic workers. No other category of employer is similarly restricted in the Rule.

Was there any count of those who employ caregivers because they are no longer able to carry on their lives without help in preparing meals, shopping, cleaning house, bathing? Was there any count of those who employ "nannies" because the parent(s) is/are working, and there is no one to care for younger children? Was there any count of those who need help in caring for the elderly or infirm or the disabled? Can one honestly say that all of these were abusers? If not, how many? What percentage? What about the rest, the non-abusers?????

As the Rule now stands, each of these employers is now required either to establish him/herself as a "legitimate" business—with all the bureaucratic red tape affiliated thereto, such as applying for a license, filing quarterly BGR reports, etc., etc.,—or use an employment agency, to obtain domestic help. In either case, this entails an added cost: fees and charges s/he did not have to pay prior to the implementation of the Rule (more discrimination).

In addition, if the applicant uses an employment agency, it is not at all clear that s/he can ensure that the domestic worker who had been working for him/her will be able to continue doing so (again, unequal treatment).

This will cause a major hardship to many people who can least afford it. To cite my own example, I live on a fixed income. I am 80 years old, have emphysema and lung cancer (currently in remission) and am no longer able to do all the work required to keep my house clean, my laundry washed, my errands run, by myself. While I currently employ a housekeeper only one day a week, earlier this year, when I was much weaker, the housekeeper came four days a week, and cooked many of my meals as well. I can hardly afford the housekeeper, much less the fees I would have to pay to an employment agency under this rule, or, as a business, to the Department of Commerce and to DHS. And how can I make sure that the employment agency will send me the housekeeper who has now been taking care of me for nearly a year, and with whom I have established a rapport and good working relationship? I don't want to have to start all over, and re-adjust to someone new.

I don't know where solution lies. Certainly not in the local Legislature's re-definition of what constitutes a legitimate business—I don't want all the trappings that would entail! Best would be an amendment to the federal rules, but given DHS' dilatory performance on getting these rules out, it wouldn't appear that there is much hope there. Ideal would be the establishment of a reviewing function within the existing bureaucracy somewhere that could certify employers of domestic workers as non-abusive, who, once certified, could then hire the domestic worker of their choice. Off-the-wall? Agreed. Prone to abuse? Also agreed. But there's got to be a way, somewhere! This discrimination should not be allowed to stand.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag Village

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

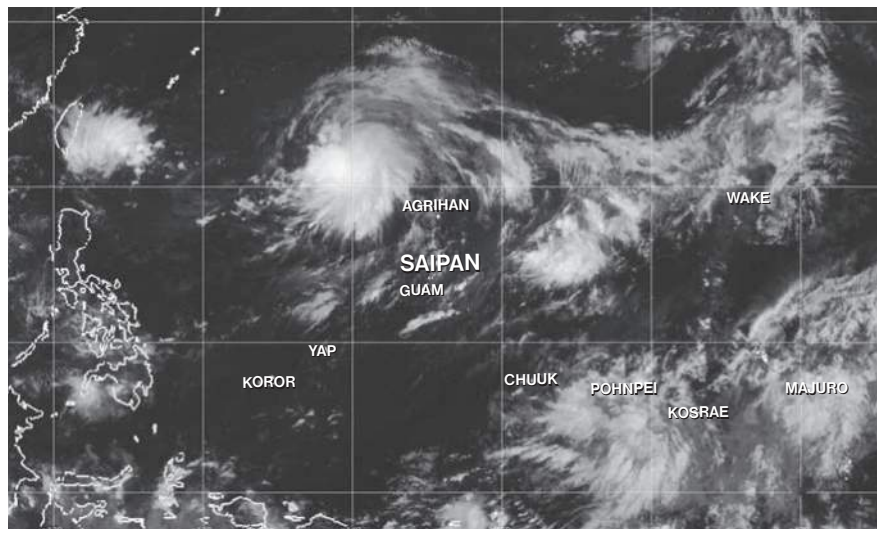
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼50
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼75
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼66
Osaka	Sunny	▲91	▼75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼46
Pusan	Sunny	▲81	▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼66
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼55
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼70
Tokyo	Sunny	▲88	▼74
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲86	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 18W is centered at 22N135E and is nearly stationary with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the center of 18W and the northern CNMI between 17N and 25N from 136E to 144E. For more information on Tropical Depression 18W, refer to advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A weak circulation is centered northeast of Saipan near 18N153E. Scattered showers are present east of the northern CNMI between 19N and 23N from 148E to 152E and east of Saipan within 130 miles of a line from 15N153E to 19N158E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Chuuk across Pohnpei and near Kosrae between the equator and 9N from 153E to 163E. A surface trough extends to the east from 8N165E to 8N173E then turns to the northeast to pass beyond the date line at 11N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Kwajalein and near Majuro within an area bounded by a line from EQ165E to 8N180 to 14N180 to 7N165E back to EQ165E. A trade-wind trough just west of Wake Island stretches northeastward from 19N163E to 24N169E. Upper-level divergence is helping to produce scattered showers near Wake Island within 100 miles of the trough axis.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:38 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:16 PM	7:13 AM
Thursday	7:54 PM	8:00 AM
Friday	8:34 PM	8:49 AM
Saturday	9:17 PM	9:38 AM
Sunday	10:02 PM	10:28 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 4, 7
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

Obama would raise taxes to pay for his jobs bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a sharp challenge to the GOP, President Barack Obama proposed paying for his costly new jobs plan Monday with tax hikes that Republicans have already emphatically rejected. The reception to his new proposal was no more welcoming, setting the stage for a likely new fight with Congress.

Flanked at the White House by workers he said the legislation would help, Obama declared, "This is the bill that Congress needs to pass. No games. No politics. No delays." He sent it to Capitol Hill saying, "The only thing that's stopping it is politics."

■ ■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—Some Social Security advocates fear that President Barack Obama's desire to cut taxes supporting the program will undermine its vaunted stature as a self-financing pension system that provides checks to retirees based on contributions they made while working.

For now, though, the administration insists—and many experts agree—that the proposal would have no impact on the program's financial soundness or ability to pay benefits averaging $1,077 a month to 55 million recipients..

AP

President Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden, and others, talks about his American Jobs Act during a statement in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Monday, Sept. 12, 2011.

Cutting Social Security taxes is the keystone of Obama's $447 billion plan to create jobs and leave more cash in people's pockets, an effort by the president to bolster the ailing economy and his own 2012 re-election prospects.

■ ■ ■ ■

The president's proposal drew criticism from House Speaker John Boehner, who'd previously responded in cautious but somewhat receptive tones to the $447 billion jobs plan made up of tax cuts and new spending that Obama first proposed in an address to Congress last Thursday.

"It would be fair to say this tax increase on job creators is the kind of proposal both parties have opposed in the past. We remain eager to work together on ways to support job growth, but this proposal doesn't appear to have been offered in that bipartisan spirit," Boehner spokesman Brendan Buck said.

The biggest piece of the payment plan would raise about $400 billion by eliminating certain deductions, including on charitable contributions, that can be claimed by wealthy taxpayers. Obama has proposed that in the past—to help pay for his health care overhaul, for example—and it's been shot down by Republican lawmakers along with some Democrats.

Yet by daring Republicans anew to reject tax hikes on the rich Obama could gain a talking point as the 2012 presidential campaign moves forward, if not a legislative victory.

At a Rose Garden event Monday, Obama brandished his jobs bill and surrounded himself with police officers, firefighters, teachers, construction workers and others he said would be helped by it. Adopting a newly combative tone that's been welcomed by dispirited Democrats, Obama demanded immediate action on the legislation, which the White House sent to Capitol Hill Monday afternoon.

"Instead of just talking about America's job creators, let's actually do something for America's job creators," he said.

Late in the day, he told a group of Spanish-language reporters that if Congress agreed to just a portion of the bill he would accept it while still fighting for more.

"I am going to put forward the entire bill and I have asked them to pass the entire bill. Obviously, if they pass parts of it, I am not going to veto those parts," Obama said. "I will sign it, but I will then say, give me the rest, and I will keep on making that argument."

Economists cut growth forecasts for 2011 and 2012

WASHINGTON (AP)—Confronted with an economy that has decidedly underperformed this year, economists are scaling back their growth forecasts for 2011 and next year.

In their latest forecast, top economists with the National Association for Business Economics predict that the economy will grow 1.7 percent this year—down from the group's May prediction of 2.8 percent expansion. For 2012, the group is forecasting growth of 2.3 percent, compared to a May forecast of 3.2 percent growth.

The new survey, released Monday, is in line with the outlook of other economists who have marked down growth prospects to reflect an economy that has struggled this year to deal with a spike in gasoline prices, production disruptions stemming from Japan's earthquake, a flare-up of Europe's debt problems and a prolonged debate over America's debt ceiling.

"A wide variety of factors were seen as restraining growth, including low consumer and business confidence," said Gene Huang, the president-elect of NABE and one of 52 professional forecasters who participated in the survey.

"Panelists are very concerned about high unemployment, federal deficits and the European sovereign debt crisis," said Huang, who is chief economist at FedEx Corp.

The survey was done before President Barack Obama appeared before Congress on Thursday to unveil a new $447 billion plan to jump-start job growth through a combination of tax cuts and government spending.

The latest NABE outlook underscores the problems facing an economy that many economists fear could be in danger of slipping into another recession.

The expectations for overall economic growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, for both 2011 and 2012 were trimmed by a percentage point from the May forecast. The May estimates had been trimmed from February when the NABE analysts were forecasting growth of 3.3 percent this year.

The economy grew 3 percent in 2010, the first full year after the country emerged from the 2007-2009 recession, but slowed to an annual rate of just 0.7 percent in the first six months of this year.

Fear of Greek default hurts markets in US, Europe

LONDON (AP)—Fear that Greece will default on its debt, perhaps triggering a financial chain reaction that will cause another global recession, hurt European stocks Monday and sent American stocks lower for a time.

The market tension came after a German politician suggested Greek finances are so bad the nation might have to leave the coalition of 17 countries that use the euro as their common currency.

In addition, the German economy minister published an op-ed arguing that an "orderly bankruptcy" of Greece must be an option. Greece has been relying on international bailouts to keep it solvent.

Germany's opinion on the Greek crisis is taken seriously because Germany has the strongest economy in Europe. A spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel played down both suggestions, but financial markets were spooked anyway.

The Stoxx 50 index of blue-chip European stocks fell 2.6 percent. In the United States, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 167 points, or 1.5 percent, before turning around late in the day to close up almost 70.

"With German officials seemingly in destructive overdrive, as per all the public talk of preparing for a Greek default and even a Greek euro exit, markets can hardly be blamed for the latest charge for the bunker and tin hats," said Marc Ostwald, market strategist at Monument Securities.

Bank stocks were hit hard. In Europe, Deutsche Bank of Germany and BNP Paribas of France were down 11 percent each at one point. Societe Generale, another large French bank, closed down 10.8 percent.

Investors are worried because banks have lent billions of dollars to Greece and other troubled European nations. And American banks have lent money to their European counterparts, so the United States could be hurt if European countries go broke.

In addition, a new recession in Europe would hurt the U.S. because American companies rely on Europe for a big portion of their exports. The American economy is already growing so slowly that it wouldn't take much to push it back into recession.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Reports: Italy asks China to buy bonds, invest

BEIJING (AP)—Italian officials have held talks with China's sovereign wealth fund in an effort to persuade Beijing to buy Italy's government bonds or invest in its companies, news reports said Tuesday. The chairman of China Investment Corp. met with Italy's finance minister last week in Rome, The Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times reported, citing unnamed sources. They gave no indication the two sides reached any agreements. Phone calls to CIC's Beijing headquarters were not answered.

World markets open higher after US rally

SHANGHAI (AP)—Asian markets were mostly higher Tuesday as investors took heart from a late rally on Wall Street, but China shares fell on speculation over possible fresh measures to counter inflation. Benchmark oil rose to near $89 a barrel while the dollar slipped against the yen and the euro. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index gained 0.5 percent to 8,577.45 by midday. Suzuki Motor Corp. jumped 3.3 percent, a day after the company announced it was ending its alliance with Volkswagen AG.

Buffett adds investment exec as part of succession

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Berkshire Hathaway has hired a second hedge fund manager to help run the company's investment portfolio and prepare for what it described as the eventual retirement of 81-year-old billionaire Warren Buffett. Berkshire said Monday that Ted Weschler will join the Omaha-based company early next year. The 50-year-old has announced to the partners of his hedge fund, Peninsula Capital Advisors, that he will begin winding up the fund so he can join Berkshire.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,061.10	1,162.27	2,495.09
68.99	8.04	27.10
0.63%	0.70%	1.10%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9662	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7986	Philippine Peso	42.8000
British Pound	0.6310	Indian Rupee	47.0450	Singapore Dollar	1.2338
Canadian Dollar	0.9919	Indonesian Rupiah	8,642.5	South Korean Won	1,074.895
Chinese Yuan	6.3970	Japanese Yen	77.0250	Swiss Franc	0.8810
Euro	0.7317	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0229	Taiwan Dollar	29.4440
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2150	Thailand Baht	30.0920

Nation

Perry assailed by GOP rivals, defends his record

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Attacked from all sides by fellow Republicans, Texas Gov. Rick Perry softened his rhetoric if not his position on Social Security in a crackling presidential campaign debate Monday night. He fended off assaults on his record creating jobs and requiring the vaccination of schoolgirls against a cancer-causing sexually transmitted virus.

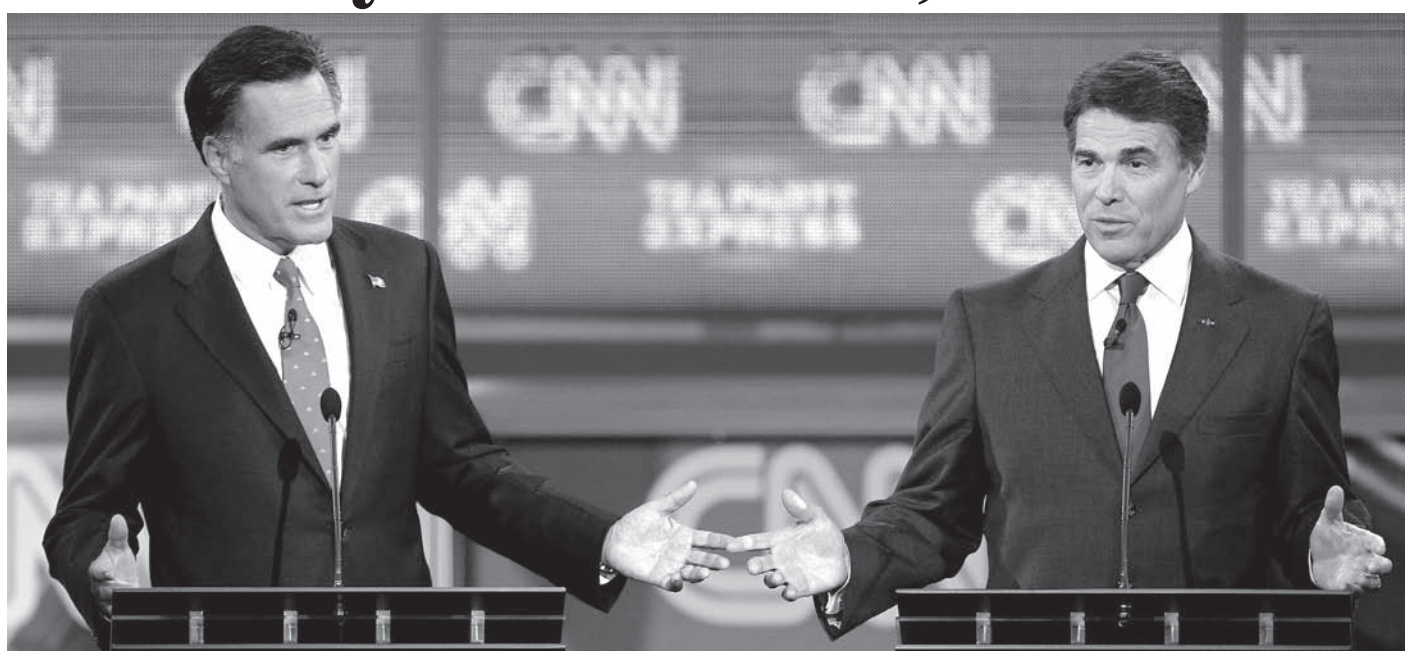
Across a fractious two-hour debate before a boisterous tea party crowd, the front-runner in opinion polls gave little ground and frequently jabbed back, particularly at his chief rival, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

But the criticism of Perry kept coming—from Romney on Social Security, from Texas Rep. Ron Paul saying the governor had raised taxes, from Rep. Michele Bachmann and former Sen. Rick Santorum assailing his executive order to require Texas schoolgirls to get a STD vaccine and more.

Perry bristled only once, when Bachmann seemed to suggest a connection between his executive order on the vaccinations and campaign contributions he received in Texas. "I'm offended," he said, if she had questioned his integrity.

Monday night's faceoff marked the first time in a season of debates that internal Republican differences dominated rather than a common eagerness to unseat Democratic President Barack Obama.

Social Security was a key issue.



AP

Republican presidential candidates former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, left, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry gesture during a Republican debate Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, in Tampa, Fla.

"A program that's been there 70 or 80 years, obviously we're not going to take that away," Perry said in the debate's opening moments as Romney pressed him on his earlier statements questioning the constitutionality of Social Security and calling it a Ponzi scheme.

The Texas governor counter-attacked quickly, accusing Romney of "trying to scare seniors" with his own comments on a program that tens of millions of Americans—including millions in the debate state of Florida alone—rely on for part or all of their retirement income.

The eight rivals shared a debate stage for the second time in less than a week, a pace that marked a quickening in the campaign to choose a challenger to President Barack Obama in 2012. The encounter was sponsored by tea party groups—the conservative voters who propelled the GOP to victory in the 2010 congressional elections, and by CNN.

In the debate's opening moments, Perry and Bachmann courted the support of tea party activists. Bachmann said she had "brought the voice of the tea party to the United States Congress as a founder of the tea party caucus."

Perry said he was glad to be at the debate with the Tea Party Express.

But it soon became clear that the presidential hopefuls were not only eager to court support from the most conservative voters but were anxious not to offend seniors and others who depend on Social Security and Medicare.

None of the three who have gotten the most support so far this year—Perry, Romney and Bachmann—said they favored repealing the prescription drug benefit in Medicare, which has a large unfunded liability. Paul, asked the same question, turned his answer to a call for ending the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as ways to save money.

There was little time for niceties.

Within minutes of the debate's beginning,, Romney moved aggressively to press Perry on Social Security, saying the front-runner had previously called it a Ponzi Scheme, an absolute failure and unconstitutional.

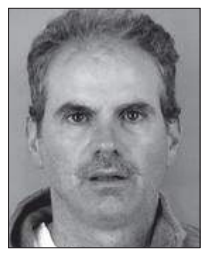
Perry did not dispute the characterization. In his recent book he called the retirement income program an example of a federal initiative that is "violently tossing aside any respect for our founding principles of federalism and limited government."

Monday night, he said retirees and near-retirees are assured of receiving the benefits they've been promised—and should be—but changes are needed to make sure younger workers have any sort of benefit when they near retirement.

Romney wasn't satisfied with that, quoting others as saying the Texas governor's position on Social Security could spell defeat for the party as it tries to win the White House from Obama next year. Repeatedly, he pressed Perry to say whether he believes the program is unconstitutional. Just as insistently, Perry ducked.

Man says charges in KC airport bomb scare 'absurd'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A man accused of trying to take a fake bomb through a security checkpoint at Kansas City International Airport on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks has a history of mental illness and recently quit taking his medications, the man's mother told investigators.



Falco

Anthony Falco Jr., 47, shook his head in disagreement repeatedly Monday as U.S. Magistrate Judge John Maughmer read an FBI agent's affidavit outlining actions that led to a two-count federal complaint.

Falco, whose last known address is East Petersburg, Pa., mumbled the word "lies" at one point, prompting a court attendant to ask him to remain silent while the judge spoke.

Falco is charged with making false statements to federal agents and trying to bring items simulating an explosive device through security, then making statements that led agents to believe it was a bomb. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison on each count.

Prosecutors say security screeners at the airport discovered suspicious items in a carry-on bag as it went through the X-ray machine. Among the items were a laptop computer and severally individually wrapped packages investigators said were "over-taped," which often is the case with homemade bombs.

Falco told officers that he did not give permission to open the packages, which investigators believed contained components for making a bomb. Police brought in a bomb-sniffing dog to sweep the packages.

"During the K-9 sweep ... Falco began to chant Bible verses and began to appear to pray, saying, `Father God America is going to go down,'" the judge read. "He continued to say words similar to, "You guys are going to be sorry if you open those packages."

9/11 memorial opens in NY; 'This is so peaceful'

NEW YORK (AP)—Exactly 10 years ago, ground zero was a smoking, fire-spitting tomb, a ghastly pile of rubble and human remains. On Monday it was a place of serenity—an expanse of trees and water in the middle of a bustling city—as the 9/11 memorial opened to the public.

As they walked through a grove of oaks and traced their fingers over the names of the nearly 3,000 dead, visitors were deeply moved by the monument, whose centerpiece is two sunken pools ringed by bronze plaques.

"When we walked in, those images were popping in my head from 10 years ago," said Laura Pajar of Las Vegas. "But when I saw the memorial, all of that went away. This is so peaceful, and you kind of forget about what happened and you look toward the future."

About 7,000 people registered online for free tickets to visit on opening day, and 400,000 are signed up for the coming months, according to the nonprofit organization that oversees the memorial.

Many visitors made pencil-and-paper rubbings of the names to take back home. Others sat on benches or clustered for photos. Some people cried; others embraced. Some left flowers or stuffed messages into the letters.

"There were no words," Eileen Cristina of Lititz, Pa., said as she wiped away tears. "The enormity of the loss, the enormity of human kindness, the enormity of the suffering."

The site was opened on Sunday—the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks—to the 9/11 families. Monday marked the first day since the tragedy that ground zero was opened to the public.

Security was airport-tight, with visitors forced to empty their pockets, go through a metal detector and send their bags through an X-ray machine.

The memorial takes visitors on a kind of journey. First they walk through a promenade of more than 200 white oak trees. Then, like hikers coming upon a canyon, they arrive at two 30-foot-deep pits on the exact spots where the World Trade Center's twin towers stood. Water cascades into the two voids, evoking the dust cloud that accompanied the towers' fall.

The falling water creates a constant whooshing, muffling the noise of the city and nearby construction.

"It's like an entrance to eternity," said Wojtek Ballzun, a rail worker from Warsaw, Poland.

Jim Drzewiecki, a retired volunteer firefighter accompanying a current team of them from Lancaster, N.Y., said he was trembling as he stood next to the pools.

ACROSS THE NATION

Crews gain slowly on central Calif. wildfires

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)—Several hundred homes faced mandatory evacuations and at least one school district was closed Monday as a string of lightning-caused wildfires posed a stubborn challenge to firefighters in Central California. Three groupings of fires in Kern County covered a total of 87 square miles after a weekend of severe lightning and thunderstorms. In Kern County, two fire complexes were located southeast of Bakersfield, near Arvin and Tehachapi, and a third complex in the northern part of the county had reached Sequoia National Forest.

Visitors to Arizona prisons hit with $25 fee

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—PJ Longoni has shelled out hundreds of dollars to pay for toiletries, a television and legal fees for family and friends locked up in Arizona prisons. When she learned she'd have to pay a one-time $25 background check fee to visit her son, she was angry. Under a new state law, some adults who want to visit incarcerated inmates must pay the fee, with the money raised going toward maintaining 10 state-run prisons. "For me, it is not the $25 fee that is an issue," she said. "It is when it is combined with the other costs of caring for an inmate, then it becomes a burden to me."

Sept. 11 victim's name misspelled on memorial

NEW YORK (AP)—The name of a man killed in the Sept. 11 attacks is misspelled on the memorial at the World Trade Center site. The family of Jeffrey Schreier (SHRY'-er) tells WNBC-TV (http://bit.ly/peLnVA) the R and the second E in his first name were switched on the memorial. His sister Janice Hart says she couldn't believe it when she saw the error Sunday, when the memorial opened to family members. Her brother worked in the mailroom at financial services firm Cantor Fitzgerald. His remains were never recovered.

Campus Life

Tuition hikes fail to stop cutbacks in higher ed

By KRISTEN WYATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP)—America's public colleges and universities have burned through nearly $10 billion in government stimulus money and are still facing more tuition hikes, fewer course offerings and larger class sizes.

Many college students are already bearing the brunt of the cuts in their wallets as they prepare for their future careers.

"This next academic year is going to be the hardest one on record" for cash-strapped colleges, said Dan Hurley, director of state relations for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Hurley said the higher education system has entered a phase in which cuts will begin to affect academics.

Public university systems used the stimulus to prevent deeper layoffs, maintain degree programs and keep campuses open and are now bracing for the end of the federal program.

The effects will be greater in some states than others.

Since 2009, Colorado has used more than $600 million in stimulus money for higher education, accounting for more than a quarter of the higher education budget over that period.

Stimulus money covered 35 percent of South Carolina's higher education budget in 2009 but less than 2 percent last year, according to a report by the New America Foundation.

California used $1.4 billion in stimulus money to pay nearly 30 percent of its higher education tab two years ago, but stimulus accounted for less than 1 percent in 2010.

Like most states, Nevada's stimulus infusion only softened a steep spending slide. The higher education budget fell about $210 million, almost 30 percent, over the last three years, even with the stimulus.

"We have frozen pay in the system. We have closed programs. We have cut back everything we could. You name it, we've cut it," said Dan Klaich, chancellor for Nevada's higher education system.

AP

In this photo taken Thursday, Aug. 18, 2011, students shop for books for the fall semester at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. CSU students are paying about 20 percent more this year, up to about $8,000 for in-state and $24,000 for out-of-state tuition. For many, that means extra roommates, second jobs or giving up dreams of studying abroad.

Without the stimulus boost, at least 35 states have been forced to make further cuts in higher education spending for the 2011-12 school year, with double-digit decreases in 13 states. That means tuition hikes, which for years had exceeded the rate of inflation, are even greater.

At Colorado State University in Fort Collins, students are paying about 20 percent more this year, up to about $8,000 for in-state and $24,000 for out-of-state tuition. For many, that means extra roommates, second jobs or giving up dreams of studying abroad.

The rising costs were the reason junior Ryan Thistlethwaite to join the Air Force ROTC program.

The human development and family services major pays out-of-state tuition with student loans and said he made the decision after figuring he would owe about $125,000 after four years at Colorado State.

He will not receive an ROTC scholarship, but he will be guaranteed a job after finishing school to help pay off his loans. "The money, I'd say that's 60 percent of it, why I'm joining ROTC," he said.

The cost shift from states to students has been going on for years, according to State Higher Education Executive Officers, a group that tracks college funding.

Adjusted for inflation, public colleges and universities in 1985 received about $7,479 per student from their states, with about $2,274 per student coming from tuition. The group says the amount coming from state budgets dropped to an average of $6,451 in 2010, while the tuition portion rose to $4,321.

Mike McNeil, who was helping his freshman daughter move into her dorm at Colorado State, shook his head at the tuition hike and the bind it places on middle-class families.

McNeil attended the university when the government picked up more of the tab. He now relies on money inherited from his parents and loans to help his two children pay for college.

"Back then, I worked at Arby's, had a summer job to pay for school," said McNeil, a manager from the Denver suburbs. "A kid working today, no way they could work enough to raise the kind of money you'd need."

However painful the rising tuition has been on students and families, it has not done enough to balance the effects of state budget cuts at many colleges and universities.

The seven-campus University of Maine system, for example, has cut about 20 programs, including Latin, and reduced employment by 7 percent since the recession began. Those cuts came even as Maine used some $29 million in stimulus money on higher education between 2009 and 2011.

In California, the state's 112 community colleges will offer 5 percent fewer classes this fall. At Bakersfield College, some 150 classes have been cut and thousands of students have been wait-listed.

College president Greg Chamberlain said community colleges are turning students away despite surging demand from the unemployed who are looking for new skills.

"We should be opening our doors further, not closing them," Chamberlain said.

At the same time, students seeking financial aid—especially those from middle-income families—also will have fewer ways to cope with rising tuition.

In Georgia, a lottery-funded merit scholarship that paid full tuition for in-state students with a B average has been scaled back this fall. Ohio cut need-based grants by two-thirds.

Awards from Minnesota's U Promise Scholarship, which guarantees need-based aid to resident undergraduates from families making up to $100,000 per year, have been reduced for students this fall.

The federal government has stepped in to help students from the lowest-income families, adding $17 billion to the Pell grant program in 2009 and 2010.

This academic year, more than 9 million students at public and private schools are expected to receive more than $40 billion in total Pell spending, or about $4,400 each.

The number of students receiving Pell grants this school year is up about 50 percent from 2008, reflecting a rise in student enrollment and the number of low-income students.

Budget cuts and tuition hikes at state colleges and universities are not just problems for current students and staff, said Paul Lingenfelter, president of the State Higher Education Executive Officers group.

Lingenfelter said higher education is trending away from the middle class, forcing students to choose between a lifetime of debt or diminished career prospects.

"The issue the country really ought to be worried about is all the people who aren't in college but should be," Lingenfelter said.

Student loan default rates jump

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

The number of borrowers defaulting on federal student loans has jumped sharply, the latest indication that rising college tuition costs, low graduation rates and poor job prospects are getting more and more students over their heads in debt.

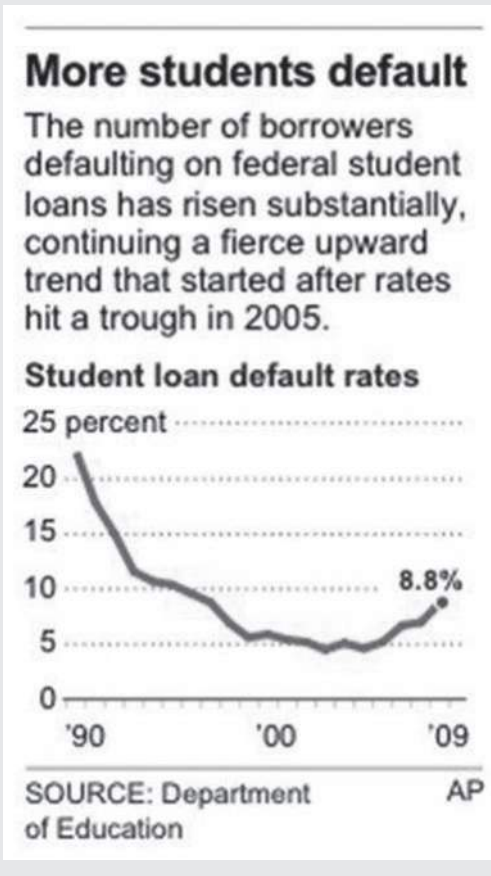
The national two-year cohort default rate rose to 8.8 percent last year, from 7 percent in fiscal 2008, according to figures released Monday by the Department of Education.

Driving the overall increase was an especially sharp increase among students who borrow from the government to attend for-profit colleges.

Of the approximately 1 million student borrowers at for-profit schools whose first payments came due in the year starting Oct. 1, 2008—at the peak of the financial crisis—15 percent were already at least 270 days behind in their payments two years later. That was an increase from 11.6 percent among those whose first payments came due the previous year.

At public institutions, the default rate increased from 6 percent to 7.2 percent and from 4 percent to 4.6 percent among students at private not-for-profit colleges.

"I think the jump over the last year has been pretty astonishing," said Debbi Cochrane, program director for the California-based Institute for College Access & Success.



Overall, 3.6 million borrowers entered repayment in fiscal 2009; more than 320,000 had already defaulted last fall, an increase of 80,000 over the previous year.

The federal default rate remains substantially below its peak of more than 20 percent in the early 1990s, before a series of reforms in government lending. But after years of steady declines it has now risen four straight years to its highest rate since 1997, and is nearly double its trough of 4.6 percent in 2005.

Troubling as the new figures are, they understate how many students will eventually default. Last year's two-year default rate increased to more than 12 percent when the government made preliminary calculations of how many defaulted within three years. Beginning next year, the department will begin using the figure for how many default within three years to determine which institutions will lose eligibility to enroll students receiving government financial aid.

The figures come as a stalled economy is hitting student borrowers from two sides—forcing cash-strapped state institutions to raise tuition, and making it harder for graduates to find jobs. The unemployment rate of 4.3 percent for college graduates remains substantially lower than for those without a degree. But many student borrowers don't finish the degree they borrow to pay for.

The Department of Education has begun an income-based repayment plan that caps federal loan payments at 15 percent of discretionary income. And new regulations the Obama administration has imposed on the for-profit sector have prompted those so-called proprietary colleges to close failing programs and tighten enrollment. Both developments could help lower default rates in the future.

Administration officials took pains to praise the for-profit sector for recent reforms, but also said flatly that those schools—along with the weak economy—are largely to blame for the current increases. Among some of the largest and better-known operators, the default rate at the University of Phoenix chain rose from 12.8 to 18.8 percent and at ITT Technical Institute it jumped from 10.9 percent to 22.6 percent.

"We are disappointed to see increases in the cohort default rates for our students, as well as students in other sectors of higher education," said Brian Moran, interim president and CEO of APSCU, the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities, which represents the for-profit sector. He said for-profit schools were taking remedial steps, including debt counseling for students, to bring down the rates.

"We believe that the default rates will go down when the economy improves and the unemployment rate drops," he said.

Life & Style

Leila Lopes of Angola is crowned Miss Universe

By BRADLEY BROOKS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
Miss Angola Leila Lopes, left, is crowned Miss Universe 2011 by Miss Universe 2010 Ximena Navarrete, of Mexico, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday Sept. 12, 2011.

SAO PAULO (AP)—Newly crowned Miss Universe Leila Lopes hopes her victory will allow her to assist her native Angola further escape its history of war and impoverishment and said she plans to focus on combatting HIV around the globe.

Speaking in a timid voice early Tuesday shortly after taking the crown in South America's largest city, the 25-year-old Lopes said that "as Miss Angola I've already done a lot to help my people."

"I've worked with various social causes. I work with poor kids, I work in the fight against HIV. I work to protect the elderly and I have to do everything that my country needs," she said. "I think now as Miss Universe I will be able to do much more."

Responding to questions, Lopes said that she has never had cosmetic surgery of any kind and that her three tips for beauty were to get a lot of sleep, use sun block even when it's not sunny and to drink lots of water. She said her smile was her best weapon in the competition.

Asked about racism in light of the fact that she's one of the few blacks ever crowned Miss Universe, Lopes said that "any racist needs to seek help. It's not normal in the 21st century to think in that way."

Lopes is Angola's first winner. She beat out 88 other competitors to win the title during the 60th anniversary of the world's biggest beauty pageant. She replaces last year's winner, Ximena Navarrete of Mexico.

She deftly handled the interview question that is asked of the remaining top five contestants. She was questioned about what physical trait she would change if she could.

"Thank God I'm very satisfied with the way God created me and I wouldn't change a thing," Lopes said. "I consider myself a woman endowed with inner beauty. I have acquired many wonderful principles from my family and I intend to follow these for the rest of my life."

The first runner-up was 23-year-old Olesia Stefanko of Ukraine and the second runner-up was Priscila Machado of Brazil. The third was Miss Philippines and the fourth Miss China.

Contestants spent the past three weeks in Sao Paulo, trying to learn samba dance steps, visiting impoverished children and kicking a football around for cameras as the Miss Universe pageant came to Brazil for the first time.

Despite battling against a home country favorite, Lopes won over the audience, speaking in the shared language of Portuguese. Angola, like Brazil, is a former Portuguese colony.

"She captivated the crowd and we were all behind her," said Brazilian Natalie Bursztyn, 20, who was in the crowd inside Credicard Hall where the event took place. "It was great that the judges also saw what the fans saw and gave her the crown. Her dress was beautiful and she knew exactly what to say when they asked her the question about her looks."

Another fan in the audience, Carolina Rocha, said Lopes' win was "well deserved, we were cheering for her all along. Her smile and her friendliness was what set her apart from the others. She also answered her question very well, that likely helped her a lot."

U.S. broadcast journalist Connie Chung was one of the celebrity judges, and said before the competition that she was taking the contest seriously.

"I know my job and I'll be tough, but fair," Chung said. "You have to keep in mind that these women are not objects just to be looked at. They're to be taken seriously. I want to choose somebody I take seriously and the world takes seriously, too."

Paula Shugart, president of the Miss Universe organization, was hyped for the night.

"It's our 60th anniversary, it's a very big show," she said. "We're anticipating close to a billion viewers from around the world."

Shugart said it was fitting the globe's biggest beauty pageant be held in Brazil at this time, as the nation prepares to host some major events in the coming years.

"I don't think there is any doubt in the rest of the world's mind that Brazil is the place, between hosting the Olympics and hosting the World Cup," she said. "I love the fact we're going to kick it off. I always say we're the 'World Cup' of beauty."

The contestants must never have been married or had children and must be at least 18 years of age and under 27 years of age by Feb. 1 of the competition year.

The pageant, hosted by NBC "Today" anchor Natalie Morales and the Bravo network's Andy Cohen, was broadcastr live on NBC and distributed to about 170 countries. The contest is co-owned by Donald Trump and NBC, and the celebrity judges included Chung and two prominent Brazilians, supermodel Isabeli Fontana and Indy race car driver Helio Castroneves.

Morales, who is half Brazilian, said that "what's most important is for the women to be beautiful inside and out."

For Cohen, the task of hosting was an easy one.

"It's a fun job. All I have to do is stand there, smile and scream the names of countries," he said.

Sharply dressed women and men jostled for chances to have their photos taken with stars on the red carpet. Some traveled from across the globe to support contestants.

Jehona Dreshaj, 17, arrived from Kosovo to cheer on her sister, Aferdita Dreshaj, who is representing the European country.

"It doesn't really matter the outcome, she is already a winner in our eye and we are so proud of her," she said. "This has been an incredible experience for her and for all of us. It's great for her to be representing our country in an event like this"

There have been no headline-grabbing gaffes going into this year's competition, as opposed to past years that have seen controversies of various stripes. The show itself went off without a hitch.

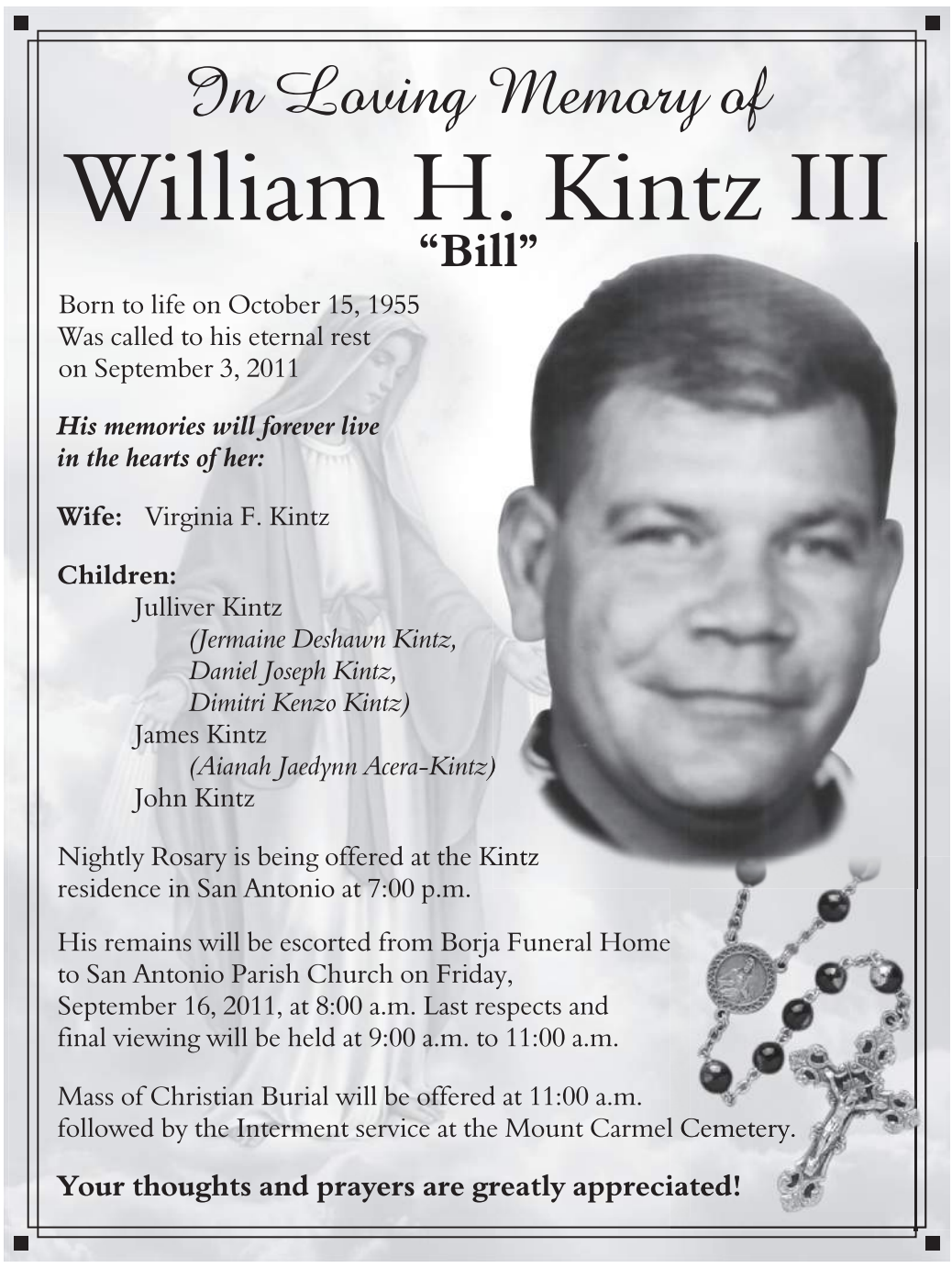
Some of the contestants have complained to the local news media about the size of bikinis used in some photo shoots, with Miss Mexico Karin Ontiveros saying they were "very small."

That was enough to draw chuckles in Brazil, where women from all walks of life, not just beauty queens, sport barely there swimwear on beaches throughout the country.

Miss USA Alyssa Campanella, from California, failed to end a long losing spell for the U.S. in the competition. An American has not been named Miss Universe since Brook Lee won the title in 1997.

The pageant started as a local bathing suit revue in Long Beach, California, organized by a swimwear company.

In Loving Memory of our Beloved
Eileen Olopai Pellegrino
May 29, 1966 – September 19, 2010
We would like to invite our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 1st Year Anniversary of the passing of our beloved Eileen O. Pellegrino unto her eternal rest. Daily masses of intentions are being offered at the Kristo Rai Parish in Garapan beginning September 11th thru the 19th, 2011 at 6:00am. Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
Thank you, Olomwaay, and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Tony Pellegrino & children and families


In Loving Memory of
William H. Kintz III
"Bill"
Born to life on October 15, 1955
Was called to his eternal rest
on September 3, 2011
His memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Wife: Virginia F. Kintz
Children:
Julliver Kintz
(Jermaine Deshawn Kintz, Daniel Joseph Kintz, Dimitri Kenzo Kintz)
James Kintz
(Aianah Jaedynn Acera-Kintz)
John Kintz
Nightly Rosary is being offered at the Kintz residence in San Antonio at 7:00 p.m.
His remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to San Antonio Parish Church on Friday, September 16, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. Last respects and final viewing will be held at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m. followed by the Interment service at the Mount Carmel Cemetery.
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated!

Johnston writes of Bristol's pregnancy

NEW YORK (AP)—Levi Johnston writes in his upcoming book that his ex-girlfriend Bristol Palin was so angry about her mother's pregnancy with son Trig that she wanted to get pregnant, too.

Johnston says when Bristol found out her mother, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, was expecting a baby she responded she should be having a baby, not her mother. He says she told him in March 2008, "let's get pregnant."

His book, "Deer in the Headlights: My Life in Sarah Palin's Crosshairs," comes out Sept. 20. The Associated Press bought a copy on Monday.

In Bristol Palin's own book, "Not Afraid of Life: My Journey So Far," released last June, she says she lost her virginity to Johnston on a camping trip when she got drunk on wine coolers.

Johnston, who has feuded often with the Palin family, says in his book if that's when Bristol first had sex, he "wasn't there." He says they did camp with friends but it was "well after" the two, who began dating in 2006, were sexually active. He says he remembers an instance in which Bristol wanted to get alcohol but he was against it because she would "lose her judgment" when drinking.

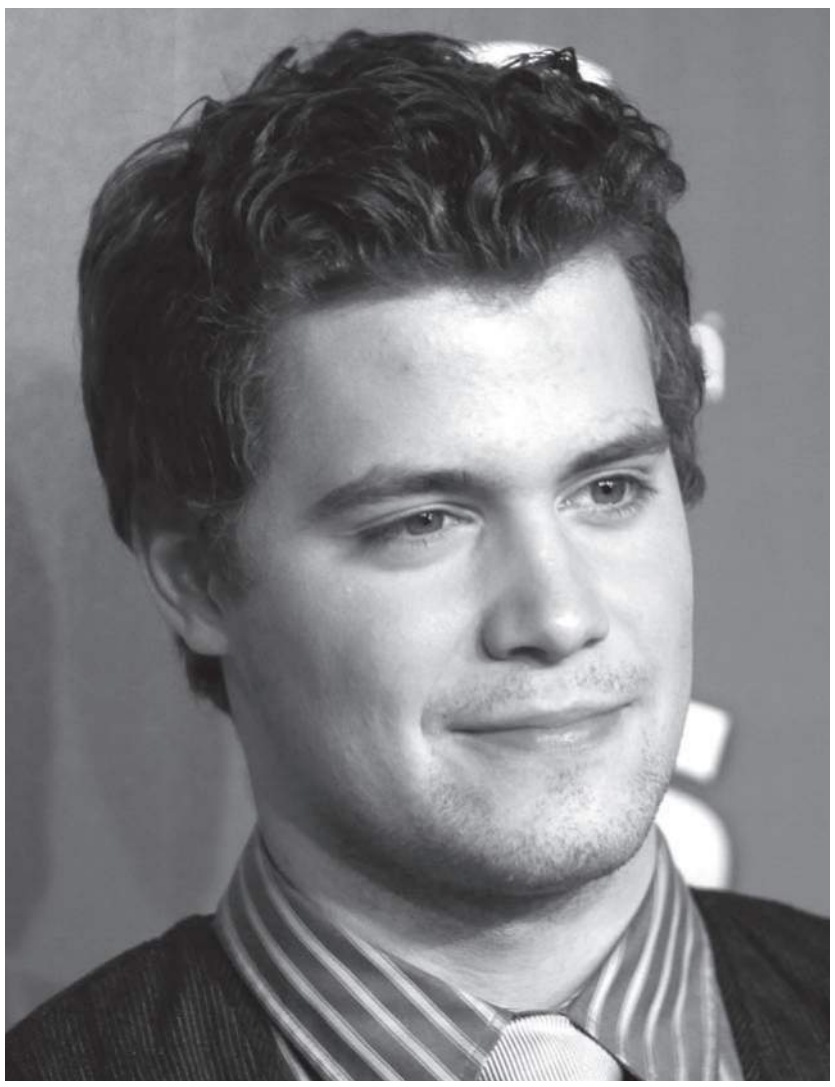
Johnston says he had "been too dumb" to use protection while dating Bristol but knew having a baby was "what she wanted."

Bristol Palin, who has been featured on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," became pregnant at age 17 and had their baby at 18.

Johnston says when Sarah Palin first learned of the teen pregnancy she laughed, thinking it was a joke. He writes it was her husband, Todd Palin, who really showed his anger, raising his voice and telling him he needed to quit school and get a job.

Johnston claims Sarah Palin, a former GOP vice presidential candidate, also had an idea to adopt Bristol's baby to "avoid a scandal" but the young couple wouldn't allow it. Their son, Tripp, was born in December 2008.

Johnston says he and Sarah Palin were present for the birth but she said he wasn't there in a later interview, calling it "shameful." He also says she was adamant about not being called grandma, instead wanting to be called Mommy Sarah.



AP

In this Nov. 19, 2009 file photo, Levi Johnston arrives at *US Weekly*'s Hot Hollywood party in West Hollywood, Calif.

The relationship between Johnston and Bristol Palin ended shortly after the birth of their son.

Johnston says Bristol was moody before having Tripp and even more so after. He says she criticized how he handled their son and accused him of wanting her to look like a bad mom. He says Bristol also complained he was cheating on her.

In Bristol Palin's book, she says they broke up soon after their son's birth when she found a text on his cellphone indicating he was unfaithful.

The two reunited 18 months later and sold their engagement story to Us Weekly magazine.

Bristol says they broke up when he admitted getting another girl pregnant, which Johnston denies.

Sarah Palin skewered Johnston in her book "America by Heart: Reflections on Family, Faith, and Flag," writing that it was "disgusting" to watch him exploit his sudden fame after she was chosen as U.S. Sen. John McCain's running mate in the 2008 presidential election. She said he disgraced himself by repeatedly criticizing the Palins.

'Contagion' breaks out with $22.4M weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Contagion" caught the No. 1 spot at the box office, inhaling $22.4 million in its first weekend.

The Warner Bros. pandemic thriller starring an A-list cast that includes Matt Damon, Kate Winslet, Jude Law and Gwyneth Paltrow topped reigning box office champion "The Help," which earned $8.9 million in its fifth week, bringing the acclaimed Disney drama's domestic haul to $137.3 million.

Despite the infectious success of "Contagion," it was the lowest grossing weekend of the year so far for the film industry, a typical slump for the weekend after Labor Day.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. "Contagion," Warner Bros., $22,403,596, 3,222 locations, $6,953 average, $22,403,596, one week.
2. "The Help," Disney, $8,926,142, 2,935 locations, $3,041 average, $137,327,800, five weeks.
3. "Warrior," Lionsgate, $5,242,107, 1,869 locations, $2,805 average, $5,242,107, one week.
4. "The Debt," Focus, $4,772,045, 1,876 locations, $2,544 average, $21,869,001, two weeks.
5. "Colombiana," Sony/Tristar, $3,947,582, 2,354 locations, $1,677 average, $29,726,288, three weeks.
6. "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," Fox, $3,886,285, 2,887 locations, $1,346 average, $167,847,116, six weeks.
7. "Shark Night 3D," Relativity Media, $3,408,413, 2,848 locations, $1,197 average, $14,672,592, two weeks.
8. "Apollo 18," Weinstein Co., $2,851,349, 3,330 locations, $856 average, $14,939,303, two weeks.
9. "Our Idiot Brother," Weinstein Co., $2,650,528, 2,396 locations, $1,106 average, $21,309,547, three weeks.
10. "Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World," Weinstein Co., $2,501,432, 2,544 locations, $983 average, $34,223,018, four weeks.
11. "Crazy, Stupid, Love.," Warner Bros., $2,261,572, 1,310 locations, $1,726 average, $78,510,633, seven weeks.
12. "Don't be Afraid of the Dark," Film District, $2,166,846, 2,251 locations, $963 average, $21,000,604, three weeks.
13. "Kevin Hart: Laugh at My Pain," Vivendi, $1,908,420, 98 locations, $19,474 average, $1,908,420, one week.
14. "The Smurfs," Sony Animation/Columbia, $1,800,432, 1,977 locations, $911 average, $136,009,277, seven weeks.
15. "Bucky Larson: Born to be a Star," Sony/Columbia, $1,415,023, 1,500 locations, $943 average, $1,415,023, one week.
16. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II," Warner Bros., $1,001,583, 810 locations, $1,237 average, $377,104,684, nine weeks.
17. "Captain America: the First Avenger," Paramount, $845,653, 804 locations, $1,052 average, $173,459,663, eight weeks.
18. "Cowboys & Aliens," Universal, $827,955, 920 locations, $900 average, $98,041,821, seven weeks.
19. "Seven Days in Utopia," Visio Ent., $649,512, 555 locations, $1,170 average, $2,749,856, two weeks.
20. "Horrible Bosses," Warner Bros., $585,868, 503 locations, $1,165 average, $115,795,823, 10 weeks.

Casey Anthony's parents revisit loss on 'Dr. Phil'

AP

In this Aug. 3, 2011, image released by CBS Television Distribution, from left, Cindy Anthony and George Anthony, parents of 25-year-old Casey Anthony, are shown during an interview with Dr. Phil McGraw of the "Dr. Phil" show, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Anthony, who was the target of child molestation allegations by the defense during his daughter Casey's murder trial, said he would turn her away if she tried to come home.

Asked in an interview with "Dr. Phil" host Phil McGraw if Casey Anthony would be welcome at his Orlando, Fla., house, George Anthony replied: "Not while I was there, no."

George Anthony and his wife, Cindy, spoke to McGraw for an interview airing Tuesday and Wednesday on the syndicated TV program and on another "Dr. Phil" show later this month.

In opening statements for Casey Anthony's trial for the murder of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, defense attorney Jose Baez accused George Anthony of sexually molesting Casey as a child. Baez also alleged that George, a former police officer, made Caylee's death look like a homicide after the girl drowned.

Baez never presented any testimony or evidence to back up his statements. George Anthony has vehemently denied the allegations.

Cindy Anthony said on the show that it would be difficult for Casey to return, given her relationship with her father. She struck a conciliatory tone regarding her daughter, who was acquitted in July of murdering Caylee and released from jail to an undisclosed Florida location.

"I would love to see her be happy either in a career or in a family setting," Cindy Anthony said, according to a transcript provided by the show. "You know, I'd love for her to get married if she so chooses and, if she's healthy, to be able to be a mom again."

Cindy Anthony said she hopes her daughter gets therapy and any treatment that's required and, at some point, is able to "move on" with her life.

Casey Anthony herself entertained thoughts of becoming a parent again. During the discovery portion of her case, authorities released a series of letters she wrote to another inmate during her incarceration. In the letters, Casey described having dreams of being pregnant and spoke of a desire to possibly adopt a child in the future.

Caylee was the subject of an intensive search after she disappeared in June 2008. The toddler's remains were found months later in a wooded area not far from the Anthony home, where Casey lived with her parents. The 25-year-old Anthony, who had told police that a fictitious baby sitter had the child, was convicted of four counts of lying to authorities. She has appealed her convictions.

Michelle Williams talks Ledger, Marilyn Monroe

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Williams tells Vogue magazine that although life has settled since the death of her former fiance, actor Heath Ledger, it's affected all facets of her life.

The 31-year-old actress says in the magazine's October issue that experiencing loss has changed her daily interactions, career and how she acts as a parent and friend.

She says she now looks at life from a "lens" where everything is "impermanent."

Ledger, 28, died in January 2008 after an accidental overdose of prescription drugs.

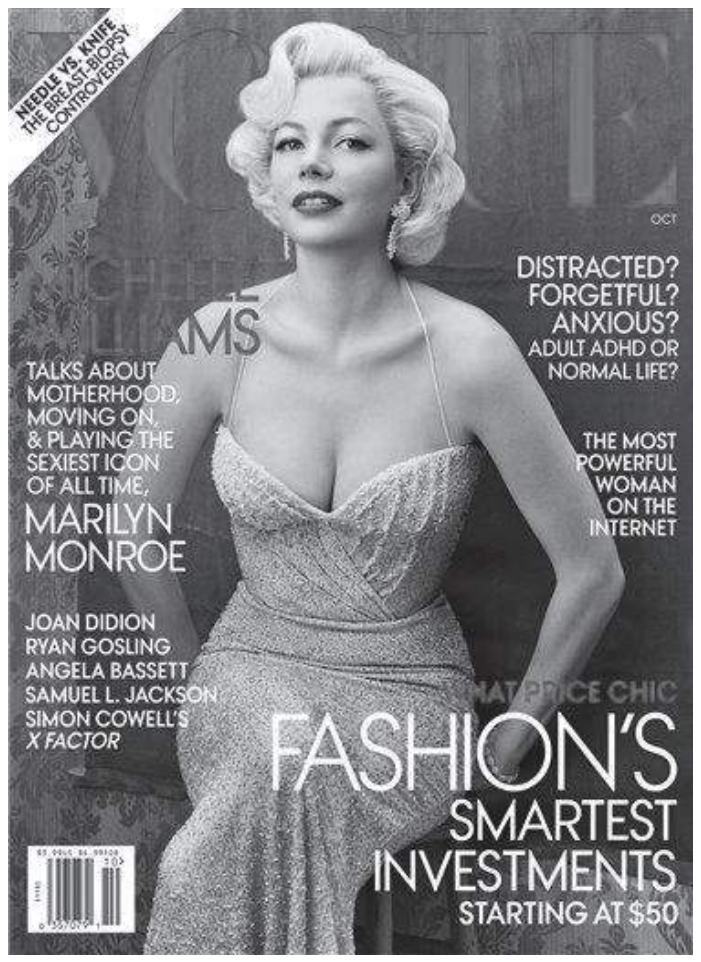
Williams plays another Hollywood star whose life was cut short, Marilyn Monroe, in the film, "My Week with Marilyn." It's about a week of Monroe's life in 1956 while filming the movie "The Prince and the Showgirl."

Williams says she tried to gain weight for the role to have some of Monroe's famous curves but it all went to her face. She opted instead to fill herself out with padding.

Williams says channeling Monroe made her feel "like being reborn."

The October issue of Vogue hits newsstands on Sept. 20.

"My Week with Marilyn" opens Nov. 4.



AP

A magazine cover image released by Vogue, shows the Oct. 2011 issue featuring actress Michelle Williams.

Naomi Campbell to be honored for charity work

AP

In this May 17, 2011 file photo, model Naomi Campbell poses on the red carpet for the screening of "The Beaver" at the 64th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France.

NEW YORK (AP)—Naomi Campbell has made plenty of headlines for her bad behavior, but next month, the spotlight is set to shine on the model for something positive—her charitable work.

Campbell and her boyfriend, Russian billionaire Vladislav Doronin, are going to be honored at the annual Angel Ball, which supports cancer research.

"She really is amazing woman and she does a lot for charity. She has her own charity. She raised a lot of money this summer for Haiti and for AIDS relief," said Denise Rich, the songwriter who started the Angel Foundation after her daughter, Gabrielle, died of leukemia.

Rich spoke about Campbell during a party hosted at her home Saturday night. It was cohosted by Jade Jagger. Tina and Solange Knowles were also in attendance, as was Rich's best friend, singer Natalie Cole.

Cole said people should not be shocked that Campbell, who has pleaded guilty several times to assault, is being honored, and that the model is misunderstood: "She has been behaving herself. She is a good girl. I think there are just certain people who get on her nerves and I understand that."

The Angel Ball will be held on October 17 and will feature performances by Patti LaBelle and Eve.

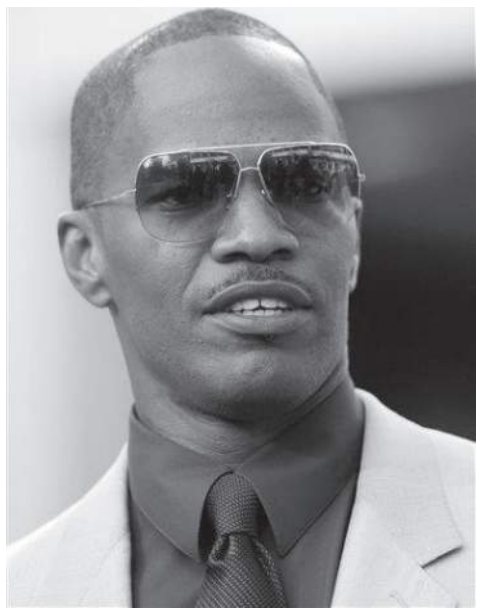
Jamie Foxx to host Michael Jackson tribute concert

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jamie Foxx has been named to host the Michael Jackson tribute concert planned for October in Wales.

Foxx's spokesman said Monday that the Oscar-winning star of "Ray" would host "Michael Forever—The Tribute Concert." It is scheduled for Oct. 8 in Cardiff, Wales.

Christina Aguilera, Smokey Robinson and Cee Lo Green are among the show's announced performers.

The show is not affiliated with Michael Jackson's estate, but Jackson's mother, Katherine, and other Jackson family members are scheduled to attend.



AP

In this June 30, 2011 file photo, Jamie Foxx, a cast member in "Horrible Bosses," poses at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles.

Organizers had to rescind an offer to the band Kiss last month after fans and Jackson's estate noted that singer-bassist Gene Simmons had harshly criticized the pop singer over the years.

Prosecutors appeal judge's dismissal in Anna Nicole case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors who say a judge was biased against them have filed an appeal trying to reinstate three convictions against Anna Nicole Smith's boyfriend and her psychiatrist.

The unusual appeal filed Monday in California's 2nd District Court of Appeals says Superior Court Judge Robert Perry abused his discretion when he granted a new trial to the two defendants and dismissed the few counts on which they were convicted. A jury had acquitted them on most of 11 charges involving drug prescriptions given to the former Playboy model in the months before she died of an accidental drug overdose in February 2007.

A co-defendant, Dr. Sandeep Kapoor, who was Smith's physician, was acquitted of all charges.

Two guilty verdicts against Dr. Khristine Eroshevich and Howard K. Stern on conspiracy counts involved the use of false names to obtain prescription pain medications for the Smith. Eroshevich also was convicted of one count of obtaining Vicodin under a false name.

Perry found that the defendants' actions in trying to protect Smith's name were not unusual in the celebrity world of Hollywood. He dismissed the conspiracy counts and reduced the one conviction against Eroshevich to a misdemeanor with a sentence of one year probation.

Giffords grants first interview to Sawyer

NEW YORK (AP)—Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords will give her first TV interview since being shot in January to Diane Sawyer of ABC News.

She'll sit down for the interview with her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly. The extent of her participation will depend on how well she's recovered by then.

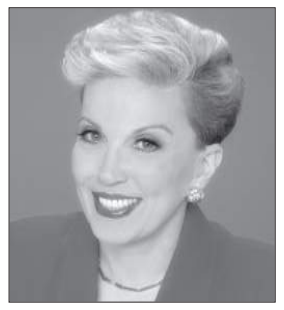
Giffords was shot in the head while meeting with constituents Jan. 8.

ABC said Monday the discussion will air as part of a primetime special Nov. 14. That's the night before a book by Giffords and her husband will be published. It's titled "Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope."

Giffords has slowly emerged as her recovery from the near-fatal brain injury continues. Her office released a photo of her in June. And in August she appeared in Washington to vote on the debt ceiling bill.

Wife performing in sex tape doesn't know she's a star

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for 10 years, and it is a wonderful marriage. We love each other very much, never argue and get along great. We have a 2-year-old child.

Recently I found a "sex tape" online of my wife with the guy she dated before me. This video was taken without her knowledge and is from 13 years ago, Because of this, I am not upset about it.

My question is, should I bring this to her attention, and if so, how? I feel she needs to know it's out there. I'm reacting to this as a man would. I don't know how a woman would react. Please help.

IT'S PRIVATE

DEAR IT'S PRIVATE: Although there are no sex tapes of me floating around, I can tell you from a woman's perspective that if there was one (and the lighting was unflattering), I'd be furious. Your wife has a right to know, so don't keep her in the dark.

P.S. How did you come across that video? I'm sure she will be interested to know.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A couple of years ago, my husband of 30 years became distant. He didn't want to touch me, talk to me or spend time with me. I was devastated.

An old boyfriend emailed me to offer condolences on the death of my brother. There were just chatty emails at the beginning, about our lives and how we had gone such separate ways in 40 years. The emails started becoming more intimate, as I was fed by his seeming "love" for me. He told me I was his "soul mate" and I fell for it. I took risks to see him, eventually slept with him and lied to everyone I know in the process.

Recently my husband came across an email from the past boyfriend. My secret was out and the truth was ugly. I had betrayed God, my husband, my mother and my four beautiful children. My husband no longer trusts me and wants a divorce.

Abby, please tell your readers to think long and hard before acting out of loneliness. It doesn't just affect the husband and wife; it also has an impact on the entire family, circle of friends and standing within the community.

ADULTEROUS WIFE IN FLORIDA

DEAR WIFE: How sad that you didn't get to the bottom of your husband's distancing before it led to you having an affair. But before you allow your husband to place all the blame on your shoulders, you should make it your business to learn the reason for HIS behavior – since "everything" is now out in the open.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I love my husband and, for the most part, we get along great. My only complaint is he stays neutral when someone hurts my feelings.

The latest incident involved good friends of ours until the wife hurt me for the last time. She has a history of inviting me out, even talking me into changing my plans, then ditching me if something better comes along. This last time, I was invited to her house, only to learn (as I'm walking out the door) that she had left for the evening. I've had enough! I gave her as many chances as I did only because my husband said I "overreact" and shouldn't let it be a big deal.

This isn't the first time he has chosen not to validate my feelings. The fact that my husband is never on my side hurts me more than what my "friend" has ever done. Am I right?

GETS NO SUPPORT IN AZUSA, CALIF.

DEAR GETS NO SUPPORT: Your husband may not want to be caught in the middle of a disagreement between two women, but that's no reason for him not to tell you your feelings are appropriate when they are justified. He may be good friends with the husband, but the wife has shown she's not much of a friend to you. Real friends don't stand each other up if something "better" comes along. Her behavior is rude and insensitive, and I don't blame you for being offended.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

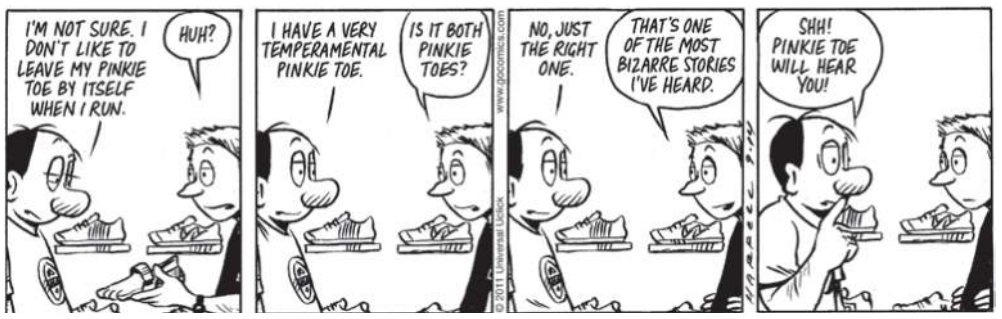
I'VE HAD TROUBLE CHOOSING A NEW HOBBY.
FIRST I WANTED TO COLLECT BUGS.
THEN I WANTED TO COLLECT STAMPS.
WHAT DID YOU DECIDE ON?
STAMPED BUGS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

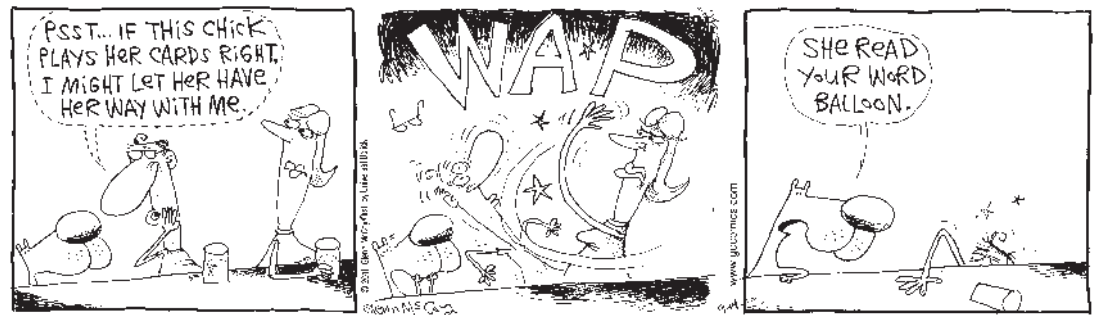
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M NOT SURE. I DON'T LIKE TO LEAVE MY PINKIE TOE BY ITSELF WHEN I RUN.
HUH?
I HAVE A VERY TEMPERAMENTAL PINKIE TOE.
IS IT BOTH PINKIE TOES?
NO, JUST THE RIGHT ONE.
THAT'S ONE OF THE MOST BIZARRE STORIES I'VE HEARD.
SHH! PINKIE TOE WILL HEAR YOU!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Discourteous
5 Party bowlful
8 Satan's minions
12 Getting — years
13 Nipper's co.
14 "The Lion King" lioness
15 Woe
17 British gun
18 Surpass
19 Group of seven
21 Ex-garment
22 Eastern potentate (Var.)
23 Dog's "dog"
26 Brooks or Blanc
28 Filch
31 Promptly, on a memo
33 Dopey companion?
35 Catch sight of
36 Argentina's neighbor
38 Legislation
40 Witness
41 See to
43 Go up and down
45 Rub harshly against
47 Lack of vitality
51 Weeding tools
52 Stronghold
54 Otherwise
55 Raw rock
56 Carry on
57 Rolling stone's lack
58 Obtained
59 Choir voice

DOWN
1 Took the bus
2 Alternative to Windows
3 Platter
4 Go in
5 Coated in flour
6 Suffix with robot
7 High-ranking Turk
8 Notwithstanding, with "of"
9 Futon, for one
10 Entreaty
11 Beach stuff
16 Paper quantity
20 Type measures
23 — -Man (vintage videogame)
24 Cigar residue
25 Diner employee
27 "That's funny," to a texter
29 Gorilla
30 Caustic solution
32 Satisfies
34 Life, to Sally Bowles
37 Tackle's teammate
39 Refuses to
42 Clear the air?
44 "Déja vu all over again" speaker
45 Throat clearer
46 String tie
48 Repast
49 "— It Romantic?"
50 Regarding
53 Acapulco gold

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	B	B	A	■	H	A	H	■	B	A	L	D
C	I	F	M	■	R	I	O	■	A	R	I	A
H	O	T	P	O	I	N	T	■	L	E	O	N
F	W	F	■	V	F	T	■	B	I	A	N	K
■	■	■	W	E	D	■	S	U	P	■	■	■
P	E	T	E	R	■	R	E	M	O	V	A	L
A	V	I	S	■	F	A	X	■	I	A	G	O
D	E	S	T	R	O	Y	■	A	N	N	E	X
■	■	■	P	A	X	■	O	T	T	■	■	■
B	O	S	O	M	■	T	W	O	■	D	I	S
A	N	T	I	■	P	I	N	P	O	I	N	T
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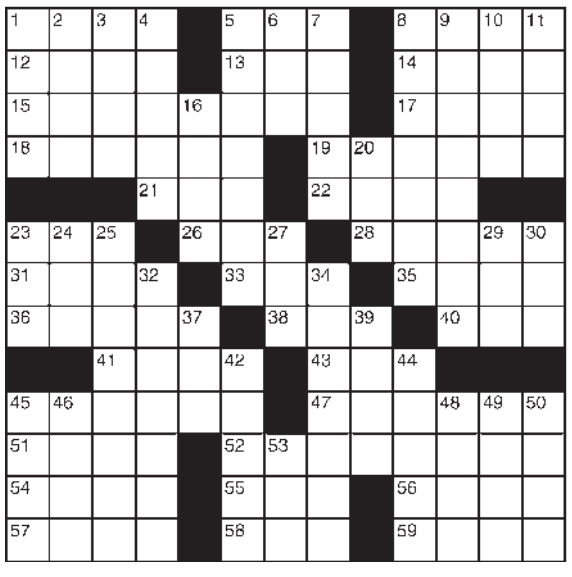
Yesterday's answer 9-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kimberly Williams-Paisley, 40; Melissa Leo, 51; Callum Keith Rennie, 51; Sam Neill, 64.

Happy Birthday: Don't let the little things get to you. Putting more time and effort into detail will help you gain support and greater control over projects. Don't hang on to something that no longer fits your lifestyle or someone who is moving in a different direction. It's time to try something different. The experience you gain will prepare you for bigger and better pursuits. Your numbers are 8, 16, 24, 28, 37, 40, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stop waiting for a sign or for someone to give you a nudge. Practical application coupled with a dose of realism should get you moving in the right direction. Once you've taken the first few steps you'll be able to speed along. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Interact more with people in your field or with similar interests and you will gather information and create opportunities to collaborate. Love relationships will develop if you are single; if you are with someone, you can enhance the connection. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do your part, regardless of whether you feel up to it. It's important not to rock the boat or to disrupt plans. Deal with money, legal and institutional matters while they are fresh and you have momentum. Be careful not to let love cost you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take care of personal and domestic matters. The more you put into home and family, the better you will feel. Talking to someone with helpful information will also encourage you to participate in a worthwhile cause that promises long-term benefits. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Change your location if it will help you achieve your goals. Take care of responsibilities and you will gain respect as well as greater control over a situation you are dealing with. A change of heart will occur due to someone's change of plans. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Broaden your horizons. Get involved in something that interests you. Learn the ropes and participate passionately. Interact with people from your past and present and you will be introduced to those who will be important in your future. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Downsizing can help you get a handle on your financial situation. Creative accounting, coupled with some recommended advice from someone familiar with money matters, will help you get back on track. You have to face dilemmas head-on. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Offer favors and ask for them in return. It's give-and-take that will help you get ahead. Communication, technology and travel can all help. Attend an entertaining event that will inspire you to follow your creative ideas. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Now is not the time to take chances with your health, lifestyle or finances. Strive for greater stability to avoid damage to your reputation. Set up a reasonable budget and a vigorous regime that results in physical and mental strength. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Leaving a good impression will help you gain respect and clout, both personally and professionally. Investing in something you want to pursue will help you increase your money intake. A romantic adventure is likely to develop. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Tidy up loose ends. Don't begin something new until you can give it your undivided attention. A sound plan that helps you combine old formulas that worked with up-to-date ideas should be put in place. Your progress will boost your reputation. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stabilize your situation with compromise. A partnership can turn into a moneymaking venture. Your standard of living has potential to change rapidly. Open-mindedness will bring about greater opportunities and spectacular results. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and willing to make sacrifices for others. You are dependable and will strive to do your very best.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	3						8	5
4		5				2		3
2			5	1	3			4
	8						1	
1			3		7			6
9								7
3			9	5	6			8
	6						5	
		2	4	7	8	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	6	1	2	4	5	3	8	9
3	4	2	9	6	8	1	7	5
8	5	9	1	7	3	2	4	6
6	8	5	3	1	7	9	2	4
9	2	3	6	8	4	7	5	1
4	1	7	5	2	9	6	3	8
5	9	6	8	3	2	4	1	7
2	7	8	4	9	1	5	6	3
1	3	4	7	5	6	8	9	2

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RACHEL McADAMS — Solution: 11 letters

M	G	B	E	B	(E)	T	H	A	A	H	T	Y	B	H
O	C	N	A	(M)	B	C	S	L	T	E	D	I	R	Y
J	N	D	(I)	L	G	I	L	R	M	N	K	C	S	L
A	G	(T)	O	D	L	E	A	A	A	E	O	V	E	L
C	R	N	A	N	D	E	O	S	I	L	A	I	M	A
K	D	R	I	R	A	E	T	R	E	R	N	N	L	S
S	T	S	O	L	I	L	W	E	G	A	E	T	O	R
O	F	C	L	W	S	O	D	H	D	E	N	A	H	E
N	N	I	I	I	S	O	M	S	L	R	I	G	C	L
O	E	F	N	L	N	Y	G	A	K	E	H	E	N	E
D	E	N	I	A	F	G	K	R	R	A	T	E	E	V
N	L	O	O	G	L	N	S	C	N	R	T	F	R	A
O	Y	T	N	E	U	B	O	N	U	A	I	I	F	R
L	A	N	C	E	O	R	A	C	K	L	O	E	N	T
K	K	I	R	I	S	H	E	R	L	O	C	K	D	G

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Anne, Arrows, Ballet, Beth, Bike, Blond, Claire, Colee, Conflict, Crashers, Daniel, Della, Earth, Figure, Final, French, George, Girls, Gosling, Hannah, Holmes, Irish, Jackson, Kate, Kayleen, Lance, Life, Lisa, London, Lucky, Married, McDonalds, Mean, Ones, Ontario, Ride, Sally, Sandy, Sherlock, Skating, Slings, Thin, Time, Travelers, Vintage, Wedding

Yesterday's Answer: Humorous

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WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE:	Sept. 09, 2011	**POSITION:**	Accounting Supervisor/Assistant Manager
CLOSE DATE:	Sept. 16, 2011	**SALARY:**	$6.00 - $7.50/per hour

Qualifications: Graduate from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or a closely related field and three (3) years of professional accounting experience with supervisory experience required. Knowledge of Opera System preferred. CPA certification required.

OPEN DATE:	Sept. 09, 2011	**POSITION:**	IT/Computer Technician
CLOSE DATE:	Sept. 16, 2011	**SALARY:**	$5.05- $6.00/per hour

Qualifications: College Degree in computer science or equivalent and three (3) years work experience with computers services required. Customer service industry experience also a plus.

OPEN DATE:	Sept. 09, 2011	**POSITION:**	Purchasing Clerk
CLOSE DATE:	Sept. 16, 2011	**SALARY:**	$5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and one (1) year work experience in Purchasing (or related field) and customer service experience required. Knowledge of MS Office. Strong proficiency in Microsoft Excel highly recommended.

OPEN DATE:	Sept. 09, 2011	**POSITION:**	Personnel Assistant
CLOSE DATE:	Sept. 16, 2011	**SALARY:**	$5.05 - $6.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and experience in resident and nonresident employee processing required. Knowledge of government regulations and licenses preferred. Knowledge in Human Resources a plus. Customer Service experiences referred.

OPEN DATE:	Sept. 09, 2011	**POSITION:**	Chef (Western Cuisine)
CLOSE DATE:	Sept. 16, 2011	**SALARY:**	$6.00- $7.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and at least (3) year work experience and knowledge in Western Cuisine and customer service experience required. Experience and knowledge in preparing for banquet a plus.

OPEN DATE:	Sept. 09, 2011	**POSITION:**	Steward
CLOSE DATE:	Sept. 16, 2011	**SALARY:**	$5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and at least (1) work experience year required. Hospitality industry experiences also a plus.

OPEN DATE:	Sept. 09, 2011	**POSITION:**	Prim/Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE:	Sept. 16, 2011	**SALARY:**	$5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900 ext. 576/575.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete applications will not be considered for the position.

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Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. **NESTOR E. ESMAN,** Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 11-0071-CV**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **September 26, 2011,** at **1:30 pm,** a hearing will be held before Judge Govendo on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of August, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
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Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner/Claimant

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LILY A. HOCOG, Deceased.	**Civil Action No. 11-0197-CV**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION; NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE LILY A. HOCOG OR OF HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Marianas Public Land Trust ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration of the Estate of Lily A. Hocog, deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Esq., Attorney at Law.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Petitioner has been set for **27th day of September, 2011 at 1:30pm**, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma'Hustisia, Saipan. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Deceased or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, P. O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

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Brady's 517 yards lead NE past Miami, 38-24

AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, in Miami. Brady threw for a team-record 517 yards and four TDs as the Patriots won, 38-24.

MIAMI (AP)—Tom Brady sat on the bench, his sweat-soaked hair hanging in his face as he fumed about his first interception in nearly 11 months.

A little later he was back in the same seat wearing a wide grin as teammates congratulated him on a record-setting performance.

Brady shook off a rare turnover to throw for a team-record 517 yards and four touchdowns, including a 99-yarder to Wes Welker, and the New England Patriots started with a victory for the eighth consecutive season Monday night by beating the Miami Dolphins 38-24.

Defensive end Jared Odrick picked off a deflected pass to set up a Miami touchdown and end Brady's NFL-record streak of 358 passes without an interception.

Otherwise Brady and the reigning AFC East champions picked up where they left off last season, when he threw for 36 TDs and his team led the league in scoring.

New England totaled 622 yards, the most in franchise history and the most allowed by Miami. Brady's performance overshadowed Miami's Chad Henne, who threw for a career-high 416 yards.

The 906 net yards passing by both teams was an NFL record.

"They made some plays on us," Brady said. "We made a few more than them."

Brady, who went 32 for 48, became the 11th quarterback to throw for at least 500 yards. Norm Van Brocklin set the record of 554 yards in 1951.

"We're pleased to have him on our side," teammate Danny Woodhead said with a smile.

"Embarrassing," Miami safety Yeremiah Bell said. "That can't happen."

The capper came with 5:44 left and the Patriots leading 31-17. After they stopped Miami on downs at the 1-foot line, Brady lined up in the shotgun on first down and threw from his end zone to Welker, who had slipped behind Benny Sapp near the 30-yard line.

"When I saw the coverage as we lined up, I knew there was a strong possibility I could be getting the ball," Welker said. "I just wanted to make the most of the opportunity."

He did, catching the pass in stride and sprinting untouched for the score to complete the longest play in Patriots history.

"I only threw it 25 yards. Wes did all the work," Brady said. "When I saw him break away, that was awesome. Coach never lets us run that route in practice."

Brady also threw touchdown passes on consecutive plays. He hit Aaron Hernandez for a 31-yard score, and when a replay review determined the receiver was down at the 1, Brady threw to him again for a TD on the next play.

His other scoring passes covered 10 yards to Rob Gronkowski and 2 yards to Welker.

"Some of their scores ended up looking like it was kind of easy," Miami coach Tony Sparano said.

Said Brady: "I wouldn't say it was easy at all."

He was sacked only once, and good protection gave his receivers plenty of time to work their way open.

Newcomer Chad Ochocino had only one catch for 14 yards. But Welker made eight receptions for 160 yards against his former team, and tight ends Hernandez and Gronkowski combined for 189 yards on 13 catches.

"It wasn't a one-man band out there," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "We had a lot of contributions."

The Dolphins' defense returned virtually intact from last season and was expected to be the team's strength, but Brady riddled them from the start.

He completed his first eight passes for 127 yards on the Patriots' first two possessions, and both ended with TDs.

Brady's first interception since Oct. 17 came early in the third quarter, when he tried to hit Julian Edelman in the flat. Sapp deflected the ball to the 304-pound Odrick, who rumbled 40 yards to the 9. Two plays later, Henne hit Brian Hartline with a 10-yard touchdown pass to make the score 14-all.

Brady was so rattled it took him 10 plays to put the Pats ahead to stay. They drove 73 yards and scored on his 2-yard pass to Welker.

Miami's problems with Brady were nothing new. He and the Pats beat the Dolphins twice last year while outscoring them 79-21. Losing at home was nothing different for the Dolphins, either, who have dropped 10 of their past 11 home games.

"This is the first game, man," linebacker Karlos Dansby said. "We've got 15 more. Know what I'm saying? We've just got to play well from here on out."

There was one change for the Dolphins. They promised a more aggressive, exciting offense under new offensive coordinator Brian Daboll and showed it from the start, scoring on a season-opening drive for the first time since 2000.

They lined up 355-pound nose tackle Paul Soliai in their goal-line offense, did damage with quarterback keepers by Henne and gave newcomer Reggie Bush 20 touches. Brandon Marshall gained 139 yards on seven catches.

But Miami couldn't keep up with Brady.

"Not the defensive performance we were hoping for," Sparano said. "That's an understatement."

Raiders 23, Broncos 20

In Denver, Sebastian Janikowski tied an NFL record with a 63-yard field goal and the Oakland Raiders beat the Denver Broncos 23-20 Monday night in a chippy and clumsy game between the AFC West rivals.

"I had a dream I broke the record and it was here in Denver," Janikowski said. "The ball really carries here."

The Raiders (1-0) won in Denver for the fourth straight season in coach Hue Jackson's NFL head coaching debut, and handed the Broncos (0-1) their first loss in a home opener since 2000.

John Fox lost his debut as Denver's coach, and he lost at least two playmakers in the process.

Pass-rusher Elvis Dumervil (shoulder) was relegated to situational duty for three quarters, and perennial Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey injured his left knee making a touchdown-saving tackle of Darren McFadden, who ran 22 times for 150 yards.

The Broncos cut the deficit to 23-20 on Kyle Orton's 9-yard TD toss to Lance Ball with both Brandon Lloyd and Knowshon Moreno on the sideline, apparently with cramps, with 3:43 left.

Other than that, Orton had a tough night. He completed 24 of 46 passes for 304 yards with an interception. As he left the field, fans were chanting, "Tebow! Tebow!" for second-year quarterback Tim Tebow, who had an awful camp and is probably the No. 3 quarterback behind Brady Quinn.

The Raiders salted away the win by controlling the clock and were able to line up in victory formation after Michael Bush's 12-yard run to midfield for the first down at the 2-minute warning.

After a first half filled with fouls, fists and frustration, the Raiders took a 16-3 lead into the locker room in wild celebration as Janikowski's 63-yard field goal fluttered over the crossbar as time expired.

That tied the mark set by Tom Dempsey in 1970 and matched by Denver's Jason Elam in 1998 at the old Mile High Stadium.

Pivotal stretch of NBA lockout starts Tuesday

NEW YORK (AP)—A pivotal stretch in the NBA lockout begins Tuesday, when full bargaining committees return to the table.

That could move players and owners closer to a new labor deal, but it also could send things in the wrong direction with time running down if more voices in the room leads to discord.

Any setback now would diminish hopes of the preseason opening without delay.

"The reality is our training camp would be scheduled to start on Oct. 3rd I believe, and so if there's any intention of trying to get that started on time, then we both have to figure some things out very quickly," players' association president Derek Fisher of the Lakers said last week. "That's just the reality of the situation."

The process toward getting a new collective bargaining agreement seems to have gotten back on track after three meetings in the past two weeks between top negotiators from each side.

They decided their full committees have to return before they can go any further, so the owners' labor relations committee and the union's executive committee were told to come to New York for a session Tuesday, and perhaps even Wednesday. That should more than double the number of people in the room from last week, when there were nine.

On Thursday, both sides will report back to their memberships, with owners meeting in Dallas and players headed to Las Vegas, where more than 40 are taking part this week in a series of games at the Impact Basketball academy.

If things go poorly in New York, the message may include warnings that camps might have to be postponed, even though Commissioner David Stern said last week he didn't expect any vote to be taken among owners Thursday. Nor would he say what he needs to hear before then to know if the schedule is in jeopardy.

"We have no conditions of any kind," he said.

Stern hasn't revealed much else, as both sides vowed to keep details of the process quiet until a deal is done. Clearly intent on sticking to his word, he gave more than a half dozen one-word answers during two brief meetings with reporters last week.

That has created a guessing game about how far along things really are, not only among fans and the media, but even with players themselves.

"I wish that I was in a position to say we knew when NBA players would be back on the court and we're getting close, but we're just not at the point where we can make those type of statements," Fisher said. "It wouldn't be fair to the players, it wouldn't be fair to the fans to get any false sentiments or hopes up at this point."

It's even unclear if any new proposals have been made since owners locked players out at the end of the day June 30. Fisher has said there haven't, but Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver, the lead negotiator for the owners, indicated last Thursday that there have.

The only certainty is that any adjustments to the 2011-12 calendar would have to be made sometime by late this month. The first postponements came on Sept. 24 during the 1998 lockout, when camps were scheduled to open Oct. 5.

Large groups from each side haven't met since late June, when players expressed frustration that owners were still sticking to points from their original proposal from back in January 2010. That included changes to the current salary cap system along with pay cuts and shorter contracts for the players.

The process has been more cordial, even if not significantly more productive, with smaller groups. But Fisher said expanding them will allow both sides to know how to proceed going forward.

"To think about where we were July 1 to now in terms of just the process itself, not what's being discussed and what type of deal it will end up being, just the process itself, we've put in a lot of time," he said. "And we're going to try to continue that process and see if we can get a fair deal done as soon as possible."

Tigers devour slumping White Sox, 14-4

CHICAGO (AP)—Jhonny Peralta and Ryan Raburn hit back-to-back homers in the second inning, and the Detroit Tigers won their 10th straight game on Monday night with a 14-4 rout of the Chicago White Sox.

It's the Tigers' first 10-game streak since they won 11 in a row in September 1968 before going on to win the World Series that year.

Raburn finished the game with four hits and three RBIs, and Peralta added two hits and three RBIs for the first-place Tigers, who reduced their magic number to six in the AL Central.

Detroit starter Rick Porcello (14-8) coasted to an easy victory, allowing three runs on six hits in 6 2-3 innings. He was tagged for one of Brent Morel's two home runs.

White Sox starter John Danks (6-12) lasted five innings and allowed eight runs—seven earned—on 11 hits.

Trailing 1-0 in the second inning, Victor Martinez led off with a single against Danks. One out later, Peralta hit a two-run shot to left giving the Tigers lead. On the next pitch, Raburn hit another ball into left-field seats to make it 3-1.

"It all started in the second inning," said Delmon Young, who was 3 for 3 before exiting the game in the sixth inning. "Victor got on base and Jhonny hit a big home run to put us on top. We had solid at-bats and good swings today."

Leading 3-2 in the third, Delmon Young led off with a single and advanced to third on Miguel Cabrera's ground-rule double to right. Young scored on Alex Avila's groundout and Cabrera scored on Peralta's single. It was Peralta's 19th of the season and Raburn's 13th.

The Tigers added to their lead in the fourth and fifth innings. Jackson walked and advanced to second on a wild pitch then scored on Young's RBI single. After a leadoff double by Avila, Raburn doubled off the wall in left-center to score Avila.

AP

Detroit Tigers' Delmon Young celebrates in the dugout after scoring during the third inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox on Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, in Chicago.

Yankees 9, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Robinson Cano hit a three-run double, Mark Teixeira and Chris Dickerson homered and New York rolled past Felix Hernandez and Seattle.

Phil Hughes (5-5) pitched six strong innings to help New York increase its AL East lead to a season-high four games over idle Boston. With the one-sided victory, Yankees closer Mariano Rivera didn't need to leave the bullpen for a chance at his 600th save.

The Yankees did most of their damage against Hernandez (14-12), last year's AL Cy Young Award winner. He worked six innings, giving up nine hits and six runs—one fewer than his season high. He struck out four with no walks.

Athletics 6, Angels 3

In Oakland, Josh Willingham hit his 25th home run and drove in four runs to help Oakland again chase Los Angeles starter Joel Pineiro early.

Willingham's three-run shot in the first inning off Pineiro (6-7) started a second straight brief outing for the Angels right-hander at the Coliseum. Pineiro allowed four runs on five hits in three-plus innings as the Angels fell three games behind first-place Texas in the AL West.

Gio Gonzalez (13-12) struck out six and gave up two runs in 6 2-3 innings.

Rays 5, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, B.J. Upton doubled twice and took two walks to set a Tampa Bay record by reaching base in nine straight plate appearances, and the Rays won their fifth straight.

Ben Zobrist had three hits and three RBIs for the Rays, who have won eight of nine to move within three games of idle Boston in the AL wild-card race.

Rays starter Jeff Niemann (10-7) gave up two runs and six hits in 7 2-3 innings to improve to 7-2 on the road this season and Joel Peralta worked the ninth for his third save.

Astros 5, Phillies

In Houston, Carlos Lee hit a two-run homer off former teammate Roy Oswalt and the Houston Astros beat the Philadelphia Phillies 5-1 on Monday night.

Despite the loss, Philadelphia's magic number for gaining at least a wild-card playoff spot dropped to one with St. Louis' loss to Pittsburgh. The Phillies are trying to make the playoffs for the fifth straight year.

Oswalt (7-9), who pitched 10 seasons for the Astros, faced his former teammates for the first time at Minute Maid Park since he was traded to the Phillies in July 2010.

Pirates 6, Cardinals 5

In Pittsburgh, Pedro Ciriaco hit a tie-breaking double to cap a three-run rally in the eighth inning and Pittsburgh stunned St. Louis, damaging the Cardinals' playoff chances.

Albert Pujols hit his NL-leading 35th homer and drove in three runs for St. Louis, which had won five in a row to climb back into the wild-card race. The Cardinals remained 4 1/2 games behind Atlanta, but fell 6 1/2 back of first-place Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Ryan Doumit tied it at 4 in the eighth with an RBI double off Marc Rzepczynski (0-2). With the bases loaded and two outs, the little-used Ciriaco hit a two-run double off Fernando Salas.

Joel Hanrahan gave up a run in the ninth but held on for his 37th save, snapping Pittsburgh's three-game skid. With runners at second and third, the All-Star closer struck out pinch-hitter Corey Patterson to end it with Pujols on deck.

Marlins 5, Braves 4, 12 innings

In Atlanta, Mike Stanton's pinch-hit single in the 12th inning drove in the go-ahead run and Florida beat slumping Atlanta.

The Braves, coming off a 2-6 road trip, have lost four straight and nine of 12.

Rookie right-hander Anthony Varvaro (0-2) walked John Buck to lead off the 12th. Stanton, held out of the starting lineup due to a strained hamstring, lined a 1-2 pitch from Cristhian Martinez into left field for the tiebreaking hit.

The Marlins have won four straight.

Cubs 12, Reds 8

In Cincinnati, Starlin Castro homered, scored four runs and drove in three while extending his career-high hitting streak to 13 games and leading Chicago over Cincinnati in the opener of a four-game series.

Aramis Ramirez also had three hits, including a double and his 25th homer, and Jeff Baker added a home run as the Cubs won their third consecutive game and matched a season high for runs.

Brandon Phillips hit two of Cincinnati's four home runs and Juan Francisco hit a tape-measure shot, but the Reds couldn't avoid their third consecutive loss and fourth in five games. Devin Mesoraco added his first career homer.

Nationals 3, Mets 2

In New York, Stephen Lombardozzi made his first big league hit and RBI count, driving in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as Washington beat New York.

Ross Detwiler and R.A. Dickey (8-12) were locked in early, each giving up one hit through four innings that took just 52 minutes. The Nationals took a 1-0 lead in the fifth with help from Mets third baseman David Wright's fourth error in three games.

Jayson Werth had three hits for Washington.

Todd Coffey (5-1) got one out in the sixth, Tyler Clippard pitched two perfect innings and Drew Storen earned his 35th save in 40 chances.

Giants 8, Padres 3

In San Francisco, Carlos Beltran, Cody Ross, and Pablo Sandoval homered in a rare show of power at AT&T Park, and the San Francisco Giants beat the San Diego Padres 8-3 on Monday night.

Ross also singled, doubled and scored three times to back a solid outing by rookie Eric Surkamp.

The setting was a lot different than a year ago at this time when these teams battled for the NL West title in a race that went down to the final day of the regular season.

Diamondbacks 7, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Gerardo Parra tied a career high with four RBIs to back seven strong innings by Joe Saunders and the Arizona Diamondbacks rode a five-run sixth inning to a 7-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday night, reducing their magic number to seven for clinching the NL West title.

Arizona, vying for the fifth division crown in the franchise's 14-year history, is 17-3 following a season-worst six-game losing streak. The win put the Diamondbacks 24 games over .500, matching their season best.

Saunders (11-12) allowed four hits, struck out four and walked one. The only runs against the left-hander came on Matt Kemp's first-inning homer and an RBI single by rookie Jerry Sands, who had three hits.

Serena fined $2,000 for berating umpire

NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams was fined $2,000 by the U.S. Open on Monday for berating the chair umpire during the final.

Tournament referee Brian Earley issued his ruling a day after Williams was cited by chair umpire Eva Asderaki for a code violation for verbal abuse during a 6-2, 6-3 loss to Sam Stosur in the women's singles championship match at Flushing Meadows.

A statement issued by the U.S. Tennis Association said the fine "is consistent with similar offenses at Grand Slam events."

Williams earned $1.4 million at the U.S. Open: $900,000 for finishing as the runner-up, plus a $500,000 bonus for having come in first place in the U.S. Open Series standings, which take into account results at hard-court tuneup tournaments.

The USTA also said Grand Slam committee director Bill Babcock conducted his own review and determined "Williams' conduct, while verbally abusive, does not rise to the level of a major offense under the Grand Slam Code of Conduct."

That means Williams does not face further disciplinary action—which could have included a fine and suspension from a Grand Slam tournament—under the "probationary period" she was put under after yelling at and threatening a line judge after a foot-fault call at the end of her loss to Kim Clijsters in the 2009 U.S. Open semifinals.

On Sunday night against Stosur, Williams faced a break point while serving in the first game of the second set.

Williams ripped a forehand that she celebrated with her familiar yell of "Come on!" But Asderaki ruled that the scream came while Stosur was reaching for a backhand, so the point wasn't finished. Based on the hindrance rule, Asderaki awarded the point to Stosur, putting the Australian ahead 1-0 in that set.

That set Williams off on a series of insults directed at the official, a scene far less ugly than—yet reminiscent of—her tirade on the same court two years ago.

A sampling of what Williams said, prompting Asderaki to call the code violation:

- "You're out of control."
- "You're a hater, and you're just unattractive inside."
- "Really, don't even look at me."

Asked at her news conference Sunday night whether she regretted any of her words, the 13-time Grand Slam champion rolled her eyes and replied: "I don't even remember what I said. It was just so intense out there. ... I guess I'll see it on YouTube."

In 2009, Williams' profanity-laced outburst at a line judge led to an immediate $10,000 fine from the U.S. Open and later a record $82,500 fine from Babcock. At the time, Babcock said that if Williams committed a "major offense" at a Grand Slam tournament in 2010 or 2011, her fine could be doubled and she would be barred from the following U.S. Open

Mieko bike race fundraiser Sunday

The Mieko Carey Bike Race Fundraiser has added a kids course for the Sunday event that will take place at Banzai Cliff.

For U7 bikers, participants will ride one loop around the pavilion, while bikers in the 8-and-above age group will do three loops.

"There will also be a tricycle race for younger kids. This race will be held after all the other races have finished," said Carey, who is holding the weekend event to raise funds for her participation in the 2011 XTERRA World Championships in Maui, Hawaii next month.

For adults races, there will be two divisions—MTB and road bike. The MTB course will be around the Banzai loop with riders in the long course doing four laps. The short course is only two laps. Bikers will start at Banzai Cliff and head to the Last Command Post, past the dump site, pedal down Cowtown Raceway, and go to the Banzai trail and back to the starting line.

For the road bike course, riders will also start at Banzai and cruise along Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, and Grotto before returning to Banzai.

Both the MTB and road races will start at 7:30am. Registration will begin at 6:30am and entrance fee is only $10.

Race winners will get prizes from IT&E, Brabu, and Gold's Gym. Carey will also raffle prizes, which include Sunnto watches (t4d), Sunnto sunglasses, Solomon Backpack, socks, hats, Zoot shoes size 10.5 for men and 8.5 for women, one night stay gift certificate from Hyatt Regency, one day Club Elan tickets, and other gifts from Triple J. Raffle ticket holders need not to be present to win.

Meanwhile, Carey would like to thank the following for supporting the fundraiser: Brabu, Triple J, Gold's Gym, IT&E, Hyatt, Salomon, Sunnto, Zoot, Suzy Kindel, and Randy Steele. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

DJOKOVIC

From Page 28

concrete that Nadal ruled last year, celebrating a win that slapped an exclamation point on one of the greatest seasons in the sport's history.

A win that, in many ways, came out of a loss on the same court.

"I guess it just clicked in my head," Djokovic said.

That he could beat these guys.

"I was always trying to wait for their mistakes and not having that positive attitude and believing I could win," Djokovic said. "This has changed and U.S. Open 2010 was one of the turning points in my career, definitely."

Djokovic won his third Grand Slam title of 2011 to match what Nadal accomplished last year and what Federer did in 2004, 2006 and 2007. Djokovic bested them both en route to this title, taking down Nadal two days after he overcame two match points against Federer to win the semifinal.

The man they call "Nole" improved to 64-2 on the season. With a few months left in 2011, the best win-loss record in the modern era—John McEnroe's 82-3 in 1984—is in reach.

However it ends up, victory No. 64 may go down as the most impressive of them all.

Over the first two sets, second-seeded Nadal broke top-seeded Djokovic's serve three times, and each time, Djokovic responded by doing what a champion does—answering back right away, then not looking back.

But it was the third set that was the classic—84 can't-miss minutes of side-to-side, unforgiving play from both men, filled with cartoonishly punished groundstrokes that somehow kept coming back.

Nadal won that set, Djokovic walked off the court holding his back and the momentum shifted.

What that did, though, was allow the world's top-ranked player to once again drive home the point he's been making all year: Yes, he improved his fitness and, yes, he changed his diet. But mostly, he changed his attitude.

With his back and ribs aching and his legs started to cramp, he said he knew he couldn't allow the fourth set to turn into yet another long series of rallies. He had to do what he'd been doing all year—go for it.

"I knew I wasn't physically there," Djokovic said. "I wasn't as fit as I was at the start of the match. I needed to take the chances I did. It was an incredible set for me."

Every bit as telling, and stunning, as any of the 17 winners Djokovic hit in that fourth set (against only four unforced errors), was the way Nadal reacted as the set wore on.

Instead of rushing, skidding, shuffling, reaching out to get one more ball back as is his norm, he stood and watched.

Nadal watched at 30-all in the final game when Djokovic followed his serve with a backhand winner down the line. He watched again on match point when Djokovic hit a forehand down the line, then dropped his racket and fell to the ground to celebrate in almost the exact spot where Nadal did last year.

A bit later, Djokovic pulled off his shirt and threw it into the stands, then put on a dark hat with "FDNY" written on it—a nod to Sunday's 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which both he and Nadal mentioned during the trophy ceremony.

"I've had an amazing year and it keeps going," Djokovic said.

A year ago, Nadal was being celebrated as the next King of Tennis, with nine Grand Slams (Now 10, counting this year's French Open) and seemingly in need of nothing more than time and tournaments to match Federer, who holds the record with 16. A year later, however, Nadal is on a six-match losing streak to Djokovic—all of them in finals, including this one and at Wimbledon earlier this summer.

"He's having less mistakes than before," Nadal said when asked to explain the Djokovic renaissance. "In my opinion, that's all. He's confident enough in every moment to keep believing in one more ball, one more ball. I think his forehand is not more painful than before; his backhand is not more painful than before; he serves the same."

Things, however, are not all the same with Nadal.

Last year en route to the title, he lost five service games and credited improvement there for finally figuring out how to win the only major he hadn't captured. In this tournament, he lost 24, including 11 in the final. Against Djokovic, Nadal won only 52 percent of the points in which he got his first serve in. He faced 26 break points. Against an opponent who spent most of the night painting lines, this was not a winning formula.

"A lot of times I started the point in worse position than him when I was serving," Nadal said. "So that's tough."

Every time Djokovic hit one of those huge returns, it was hard not to think back to Saturday, when, facing two match points against Federer in the semifinals, he turned on Federer's serve, taking a chance and pounding it back for a clean, forehand winner - a shot already being touted as one of the single greatest the game has seen.

Djokovic called it a gamble—but one he had no problem taking. He now joins Andy Roddick, Pete Sampras, Boris Becker, Martina Navratilova and Manuel Orantes as the sixth player to hoist the U.S. Open trophy after facing match point at some point earlier in the tournament.

"In big matches, the winner is decided by small margins, a couple points," Djokovic explained. "I guess the winner is the one who believes in victory more."

ITO

From Page 28

Arago and Lanie Bartolome in Week 1.

The current mixed doubles AA leaders have three more games left in the round-robin competition and a sweep of their remaining matches will give them an automatic finals berth. If not, Ito and Galvez are likely to advance to the semifinals.

Falling behind Ito and Galvez at second spot are the pairs of Guintu and Choi, Bartolome and Arago, and Omori and Hibi, who share similar 2-1 slates. Completing the field are Hapi Gabriel and Malou Malasarte (1-1), Edwin Montoya and Cheng Saturno (1-4), Aguda and Peraja (0-1), and Toshiko Obata and Mario Diola (0-3).

In the mixed doubles lower A, there is only one undefeated squad in the nine-team field after Week 2 action with Gary Bandoja and Choi holding a 3-0 mark. Robert Reyes and Malasarte and Guintu and Obata are tied for second with identical 3-1 marks, followed by Arago and Annette Quiambao (2-1), Galvez and Merlie Tolentino (1-1), Rodwealth Espana and Ito (1-2), Aguda and Lot Abuel (0-2), Gabriel and Jaja Samonte (0-2), and Roger Vales and Marylyn Montano (0-3).

In the mixed doubles 40-and-above, there is a two-way tie for the lead in Pool B with Reyes and Elma Labuson and Diola and Choi having similar 3-0 slates. Vales and Babes Cielo and Vic Regis and Omori are also in a deadlock for second place with identical 2-1 marks. In Pool A, Guintu and Oh In Sook are in solo first place with their 3-0 card.

The mixed doubles BB division is also divided into two groups with Bandoja and Sook ahead in Pool A with their perfect 5-0 record, one win ahead of Lito Mendoza and Montano (4-1). In Pool B, Oh Imbog and Obata own a 3-0 record for a share of the top spot with Chris Hilario and Annette Ta. Espana and Elna Curate are in close second with their 3-1 record.

In the mixed doubles CC, Roma Barlao and Nani are two wins away from sweeping their pool games. They hold a 5-0 card to lead Pool A. Luis Camacho and Curate are also unbeaten in three games to take the No. 2 spot. In Pool B, Kanata Omori and Cleofe Santos also have a 3-0 mark for the top spot, while Panapa Petero and Lanie Santos are in second with a 3-1 record.

THE CHARGER

From Page 28

kept a high pace in the bout, Ilo looked much more relaxed and showcased more power with his punches.

Ogo also won his kickboxing fight in the same weight class against Counter Shot's Jared "Smiley Face" Santos, prevailing via unanimous decision. Ogo was the obvious aggressor, throwing haymaker after haymaker right at the middle of Santos' face. Although unorthodox it proved to be very effective.

Duenas remained unbeaten in three fights after winning over Predator Combat's Tabi Jay Muna (4-12) via verbal submission at 1:47 into the second round of their 135-lb bout. Notably, Muna took the fight on a less than 24-hour notice, as Duenas' original opponent did not make the weight. Although a veteran at the octagon, Muna's conditioning was in question from the get go.

Muna found himself caught in a headlock for the majority of the fight and was injured at some point during the second round. The fight was called off when Muna could not get up to his feet when the referee opted to stand up the tangled brawlers.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech's next event will be the Trench Warz 15: Supremacy and is scheduled for December 16.

WILD BILL'S

From Page 28

second half, while Docomo fired five more, two each from Tonuu and Dan Westphal. Peter Loken also scored in the second half, while Isra Narahap contributed one goal in the opening half.

With the win, Docomo (8-3-2) is now in solo second place behind Wild Bill's.

The Thundercats remained winless with only one game left in the competition.

WOMEN'S
Thai Team 6, IT&E Blossom 0

Also still looking for an elusive win is IT&E Blossom, which suffered a bad beating from Thai Team.

Ratree Ditwiset led Thai Team's sixth win in 13 games, drilling three goals. Jitra Strithong, Chaleerat Amansaksiri, and Chunathip Monthonglang chipped in one goal apiece for Thai Team (6-5-2), which is in fifth place in the eight-team field.

Red Team 6, Mellow Yellow 1

Red Team stays in fourth place, following a 6-1 triumph over Mellow Yellow.

Red Team now has an 8-5-0 record, falling behind Shirley's B (8-4-0), IT&E Awesome (9-2-1), and Shirley's A (10-2-0).

Megan Herber and Jeane Bracken scored two goals each for Red Team, while Linda Anastacio and Temary Gramlich added one apiece. Melanie Santos recorded IT&E Blossom's (0-13-0) lone goal in the match.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	89	57	.610	—
Boston	85	61	.582	4
Tampa Bay	82	64	.562	7
Toronto	74	73	.503	15 1/2
Baltimore	58	88	.397	31

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	85	62	.578	—
Chicago	73	73	.500	11 1/2
Cleveland	72	72	.500	11 1/2
Kansas City	62	86	.419	23 1/2
Minnesota	59	87	.404	25 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	83	64	.565	—
Los Angeles	80	67	.544	3
Oakland	67	80	.456	16
Seattle	61	86	.415	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	94	50	.653	—
Atlanta	84	64	.568	12
New York	71	76	.483	24 1/2
Washington	68	77	.469	26 1/2
Florida	67	79	.459	28

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	86	62	.581	—
St. Louis	79	68	.537	6 1/2
Cincinnati	71	76	.483	14 1/2
Pittsburgh	67	80	.456	18 1/2
Chicago	65	82	.442	20 1/2
Houston	50	97	.340	35 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	86	62	.581	—
San Francisco	77	70	.524	8 1/2
Los Angeles	72	74	.493	13
Colorado	69	77	.473	16
San Diego	63	85	.426	23

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 5
Chicago Cubs 12, Cincinnati 8
Florida 5, Atlanta 4, 12 innings
Washington 3, N.Y. Mets 2
Houston 5, Philadelphia 1
Arizona 7, L.A. Dodgers 2
San Francisco 8, San Diego 3
Tampa Bay 5, Baltimore 2
Detroit 14, Chicago White Sox 4
Oakland 6, L.A. Angels 3
N.Y. Yankees 9, Seattle 3

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	1	0	0	1.000	38	24
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	41	7
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	27	24
Miami	0	1	0	.000	24	38

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	34	7
Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000	16	14
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	14	16
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	7	34

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	35	7
Cincinnati	1	0	0	1.000	27	17
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	17	27
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	7	35

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Diego	1	0	0	1.000	24	17
Oakland	1	0	0	1.000	23	20
Denver	0	1	0	.000	20	23
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	7	41

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	28	14
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	31	13
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	24	27
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	14	28

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	0	1	0	.000	34	42
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	20	27
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	21	28
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	12	30

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	30	12
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	27	20
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	42	34
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	17	24

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	33	17
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	28	21
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	13	31
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	17	33

Yesterday's Games

New England 38, Miami 24
Oakland 23, Denver 20

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6th Annual POWERade Banzai Run

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Keum Bae Ji is a few steps away from completing the 6th Annual POWERade Banzai Memorial Off-Road Half Marathon and Fun Run held last Saturday.

Butch Sublemente gestures as he nears the finish line.

Chad Lowe sprints to win the 8-kilometer fun run.

Natasha Kuckuck, right, leads Japan's Goto Taro a few meters away from the finish line.

Fun Run runner-up Alexander Racoma.

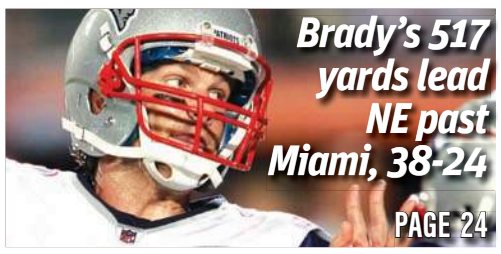
Mieko Carey gets out of the woods and heads to the finish line.

Father and daughter Daniel and Soleil Lamar near completion of the fun run.

Roy Ortizo and his dog cool down after finishing the half marathon race.

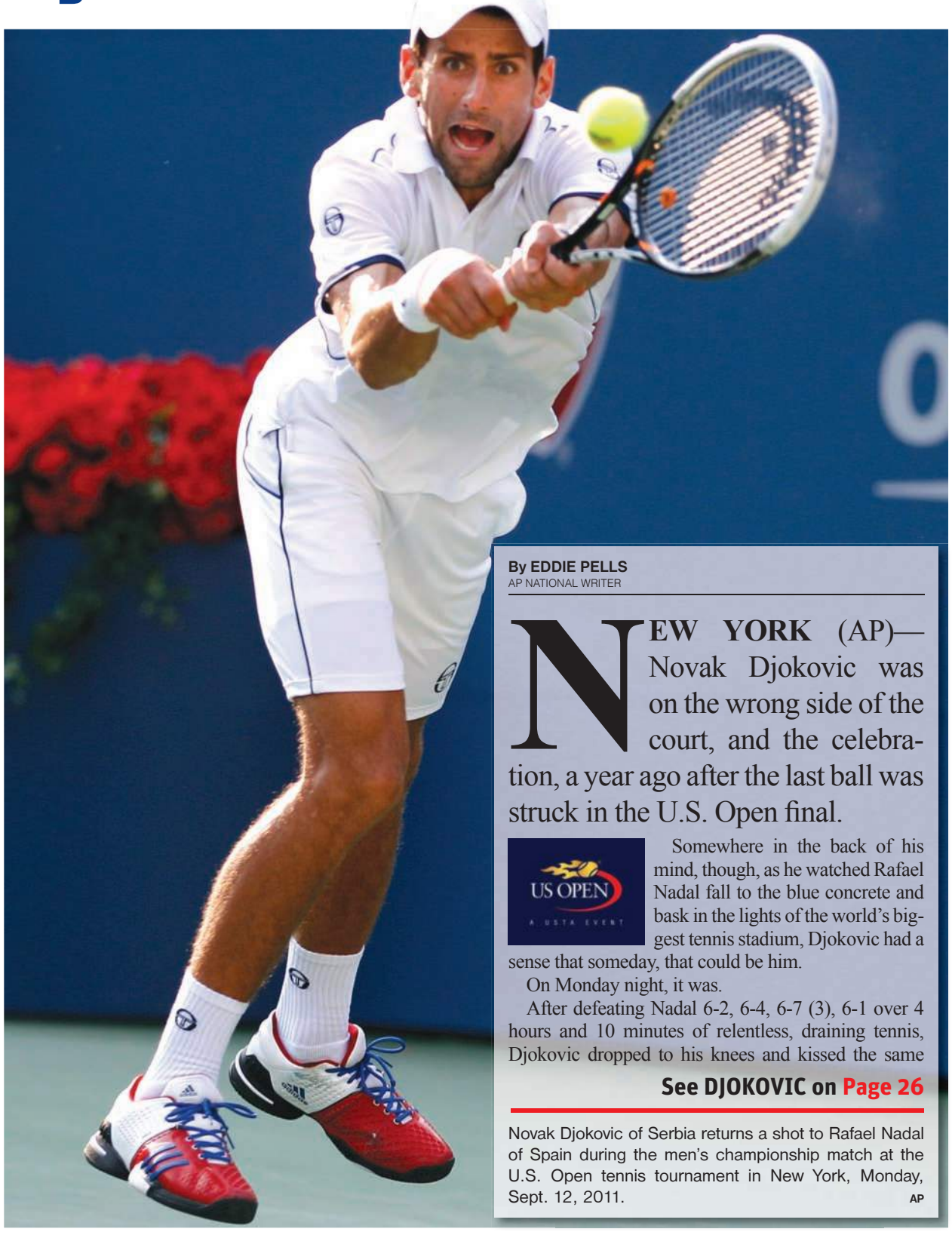
Seki Saori and Roxie Lamar pose for a photo after completing the half marathon event.

Volunteers and race organizer Brad Ruzsala, center, pose for a group photo.



Saipan Tribune
Sports

Djokovic beats Nadal for US Open title



By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)— Novak Djokovic was on the wrong side of the court, and the celebration, a year ago after the last ball was struck in the U.S. Open final.

Somewhere in the back of his mind, though, as he watched Rafael Nadal fall to the blue concrete and bask in the lights of the world's biggest tennis stadium, Djokovic had a sense that someday, that could be him.

On Monday night, it was.

After defeating Nadal 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-1 over 4 hours and 10 minutes of relentless, draining tennis, Djokovic dropped to his knees and kissed the same

See DJOKOVIC on Page 26

Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot to Rafael Nadal of Spain during the men's championship match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Sept. 12, 2011. AP

'The Charger' crushes Guam foe

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Marianas Elite's Maitai "The Charger" Charley lived up to his name, relentlessly attacking Guam's Kyle Pablo en route to a referee stoppage win in their 150-lb bout in the Rites of Passage 11: Onra held last Friday night at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Charley clobbered Pablo with successive strikes, prompting the referee to step in and pulled the plug on the latter at 3:53 in the second round. Charley was the aggressor in the second round after engaging the Guam fighter in a chess match in the first round. The Marianas Elite bet managed a couple of top position in the opening round, but Pablo played good defense to stay afloat.

Charley was then hemmed in briefly at the start of the second round, but slipped out of the hold and took the top position again and this time he dealt out some ferocious strikes until the referee pulled him off and called the fight.

Meanwhile, other winners in ROP 11: Onra were Tinian's Regino Mundo, Zalaka's Jacob "One Blow" Ilo, Haga's Jordan "Jungle Boy" Ogo, and Zalaka's Joe "Da Combo" Duenas

Mundo of team Zeng Zung defeated Guam newcomer Justin "Dungka" Dizon by unanimous decision in their 150-lb kickboxing match.

Ilo topped Guam's John Garcia of Counter Shot by split-decision in another kickboxing fight at the 125-lb weight class. While both fighters

See THE CHARGER on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Maitai "The Charger" Charley, top, pounds Guam's Kyle Pablo on the ground for a referee stoppage win in their 150-lb bout in the Rites of Passage 11: Onra held last Friday night at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Ito, Galvez lead in Shirley's Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Taga's Angie Ito and Andrew Galvez booked back-to-back wins over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex to take the solo lead in the mixed doubles AA division of the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic.

The Taga duo first defeated Saipan Badminton Club's Dick Guintu and Hannai Choi and then topped Gerry Hibi and Annarose Omori to improve to a perfect 4-0 record in the eight-team field. Ito and Galvez's two other victories were against the tandems of Macoi Aguda and Marlene Peraja and Ferdie

See ITO on Page 26

Galvez

Ito

Wild Bill's nears sweep of second round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jeeraphong Thoensaket was in his usual explosive night, scoring a hat-trick in Wild Bill's 6-5 win over IT&E in the men's division of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League on Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

The victory was 12th in 13 games for Wild Bill's, moving the team one win away from sweeping the second round of the double-round robin competition. The triumph was also ninth in a row for Wild Bill's and it has yet to taste defeat for over a month now since absorbing its first lost at the hands of Korean Futsal Team, 6-8, last Aug. 1.

Thoensaket canned twin goals in the first half, lifting Wild Bill's to a 4-2 lead. Jiayuan Guo and Jack Tanapon scored the two other goals for Wild Bill's in the opening frame. Jin Han Yoon and Seoung Joon Lee tallied one apiece for IT&E, which dropped to a 5-8-1 win-loss-draw record.

In the second half, Thoensaket and Tanapon added only one goal each, but it was enough to save Wild Bill's, as IT&E managed only three. Yoon recorded his second goal in the final half, while Kirk Schuler and Aji Thomas also made it to the scoreboard.

Docomo 9, Thundercats 2

In the other men's game, Docomo notched its eighth win after whipping the Thundercats.

Ropati Tonuu paced Docomo with his five goals. He had three in the first half, as he outscored the entire Thundecats, who only posted two goals, one each from Evert Van Der Mass and Daniel Agulto.

The Thundercats were silent in the

See WILD BILL'S on Page 26